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JULIAN HERBERT

US warning over Moscow meeting

Thatcher told not to talk about Trident

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE White House has warned Mrs Margaret Thatcher not to raise the future of Britain's nuclear deterrent when she meets President Gorbachov tomorrow.

In a surprise move concerning the most sensitive issue of Anglo-American relations, President Bush's national security adviser, General Brent Scowcroft, has urged that the Prime Minister give up her plan to reassure Moscow about the "minimum" nature of the Trident programme.

Earlier this week, Downing Street sources let it be known that Mrs Thatcher would intervene personally with the Soviet leader on the Trident question. Her message would be that Britain's tiny proportion of the world's strategic arsenal should not be included in negotiations.

British fears had been raised by reports that the US programme of supplying Trident missiles to Britain was the "number one" obstacle to a strategic arms reduction (Start) treaty. According to some accounts, the Soviet side insisted that commitments be included in the deal that would make the Trident D-5 programme the last. Mr Bush warned Mrs Thatcher during their 20-minute telephone conversation on Sunday of Soviet concerns that the 1988 Polaris Agreement between Britain and the US might be used to circumvent a Start treaty by transferring more nuclear armaments to Britain.

Throughout the summit,

Soviet arms controllers had played what one US official yesterday described as "tricky games". Although they had asked tough new questions, including a number about the British deterrent, it was unclear how determined they were to secure formal concessions from the Americans on the "non-circumvention" clauses.

Mrs Thatcher was willing to soothe any fears Mr Gorbachov may have expressed tomorrow by emphasizing that she was interested only in maintaining the minimum credible deterrent and would not assist in circumventing any strategic arms deal. Washington was told about Mrs Thatcher's Moscow plans and appeared to make no objection. On Wednesday, however, the White House decided that discussion would be the better part of diplomacy when the Prime Minister met Mr Gorbachov. "If Gorbachov gets into the issue, there's not much we can do," an American government official said. "But for our part we see this as US-Soviet business."

The surprise American warning caused concern among British observers who, while accepting US commitments to the continuing support of Britain's independent nuclear status, are even nervous at new threats to its future.

It was Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, who disclosed the agreement to supply nuclear capability to the UK as the "number one" problem for Start, placing it above the testing of the Soviet Union's "heavy" SS-18 missile and the classification of its Backbone bomber. Both Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov have said they want to sign a Start deal by the end of the year and Mr Baker's role will be to make sure that nothing stands in the way.

"This is all Soviet bluster — Viktor Karpov at play," one expert said yesterday. But others believe Soviet concerns about the British deterrent will become more acute as superpower missiles and warheads are reduced.

The statement of agreement on Start, signed in Washington last Friday, was the first commitment by the superpowers to cut, rather than merely control, the numbers of their strategic weapons. If a Start deal is signed, the two leaders have said that they wish to go into a second round of negotiations. Start 2 could bring the level of strategic warheads on each side to below five thousand. British possession of some 700 warheads would then be a legitimate.

Lord Grade said last night: "He was a master of control over his orchestra. It was beautiful rhythm, music the public could understand".

Obituary, page 14

Death of Joe Loss

Joe Loss, the band leader who brought dance music into British homes through radio and records, has died in hospital of kidney failure at the age of 80. He had retired last year.

Lord Grade said last night: "He was a master of control over his orchestra. It was beautiful rhythm, music the public could understand".

Obituary, page 14

Geography test

Teachers will be given more freedom in under the National Curriculum after final recommendations from the geography working party which lays down examples of what children should know. Page 6

Leading article, page 13

Brazilian offer

The Brazilian Government is prepared to consider conversion of its foreign debt in return for greater efforts to protect its rainforests. Page 9

Rushdie block

President Rafsanjani of Iran restated his wish for a resumption of relations with Britain but said the Rushdie death sentence will stay. Page 11

Dundasdale probe

The Fraud Squad has begun investigations into Dundasdale Securities, an investment firm suspended by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association. Page 23

Food research

The food scares of the past few years have led to toxicology emerging as a key discipline of the next century. Science & Technology — Pages 33-36

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English fans held after 'mini-riot' in Tunisia

From OUR CORRESPONDENT, TUNIS

FOURTEEN English football supporters in Tunisia for a friendly football match will appear in court today after a drunken rampage through the Hammamet holiday resort.

Trouble began when they were thrown out of a discotheque in the early hours of Tuesday morning and refused entry to another. In what was described as a mini-riot, the British Embassy said the supporters were alleged to have smashed the windows of three tourist coaches and three

World Cup, pages 43, 44

Derby reports, pages 40, 41, 44



BY ALAN HAMILTON

WILLIAM Hill, the bookmakers, suspended betting on another big race yesterday after a sudden and inexplicable rush of interest in a relative outsider. Suspicions were aroused when a string of punters wished, apparently out of the blue, to wager up to £1,000 on the Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, becoming the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

When Hills opened their ecclesiastical book in March, St Albans stirred little interest as a 10-1 outsider attracting the occasional modest investment of no more than £20. Yesterday morning, as their offices were more preoccupied with the Derby, Hills accepted several bets of £200. As lunchtime approached, and punters tried to place even greater wagers, including one of £1,000 at their branch nearest to Church House, West-

minster, alarm bells rang and the book was quickly closed. "We would like to know what these people know," a Hills spokesman said. "We do not, unfortunately, have a direct line to the Almighty." Until yesterday Hills' favourite had been the Right Rev John Waine, Bishop of Chelmsford, at 11-4. Even in Anglican circles, St Albans has not hitherto been regarded as being up among the front runners. The Crown Appointments Commission, which after much deliberation will put up two names for the Prime Minister's consideration, has not even met. An informed leak therefore appeared unlikely.

Later in the day the mystery was partly clarified. The *Church of England News* paper had published an opinion poll giving St Albans 42 per cent of the vote, and making him clear favourite in that particular camp. The newspaper is re-

garded as an organ of the Evangelical wing of the Church, to whom St Albans has particular appeal.

Hills said that they would reopen the book by the end of the week, provided they were satisfied that no other skulduggery was afoot. St Albans will then probably lead the field as 2-1 favourite. Ladbrokes, on the other hand, were entirely unconcerned. Their book, which has Dr John Halgood, the Archbishop of York, as favourite at 3-1, remained open to all investors. Their spokesman did admit, however, that St Albans had moved in from a 14-1 outsider to 4-1 fourth favourite in the past three weeks.

Bishop Taylor yesterday congratulated Hills on their prudence, and advised them to close their book permanently. "I do not regard myself as a horse," he said.



Easy going: Two Derby Day racegoers in traditional dress and traditional pose discussing form before the rains came down at Epsom yesterday

Wet and windy winning Quest

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE withdrawal of so many fancied runners meant that this year's race had been unkindly dubbed the Donkey Derby. Anti-post betting was down by a third, and Epsom Downs showed much empty grass. But all the old regulars were there: five Gipsy Rose Lees, one Rosa, one Priscilla, and, inexplicably, a Gipsy Doreen Lee doing brisk business reading palms and tea-leaves among the screams of riders in the funfair, and the all-pervading scent of hamburgers and onions.

If the event proved more colourful than usual it was, finally, because of the rain. Women who defied the weather forecast — wet and windy — and sported wide-brimmed millinery were obliged to tether around with one hand planted firmly on their heads.

When the rain began to fall, just in time for the first race, it produced a plethora of large and brilliantly-coloured umbrellas in the enclosures and along the rails.

Before the big race the Queen, in canary yellow, and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, in pale primrose, made their traditional walk down the course to the paddock. The Queen Mother made the going — officially described as good — look pretty easy for an 89-year-old, though she did accept a limousine ride back.

As the rain set in more earnestly over the Derby runners' parade the Queen Mother raised her own umbrella — a transparent cloche, creating her own greenhouse effect while retaining good visibility. The Queen went for a undressed, functional black.

When the race was run, Quest for Fame proved a conclusive and popular winner. He was still sloshing effusively over his stable lad's jacket in the winner's enclosure when driving drizzle persuaded many racegoers to head for home.

The supporters, in their mid-twenties, were in court yesterday for a preliminary hearing and will today face a full hearing. If found guilty, they could be jailed for up to five years.

World Cup, pages 43, 44

Derby reports, pages 40, 41, 44

European vets back Gummer by declaring British beef safe

FROM MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, IN BRUSSELS

A COMMITTEE OF European veterinary experts ruled yesterday that British beef was safe to eat, crucially reinforcing the position of Mr John Gummer, the Agriculture Minister, as he fought a stiff battle to get French, West German and Italian import bans lifted.

After four hours of talks, a spokesman for Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the Irish Agriculture Minister, who was chairing the meeting, said he was not optimistic that there would be an early settlement.

As Mr Gummer arrived here for a meeting with European Community counterparts, Italy disclosed it had also imposed a ban on British beef but had hitherto omitted to tell anyone. "We do things quietly in Italy," an Italian government spokesman said. The Italians bought 2,100 tonnes of British beef last year, worth £6.5 million.

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World Cup, pages 43, 44

Derby reports, pages 40, 41, 44

Continued on page 22, col 7

Labour undercuts Tories on CO₂

By MICHAEL McCARTHY AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE political battle over the environment intensified yesterday when Labour, in its most serious environmental commitment so far, pledged to carbon stabilization by 2000. This will be resisted by Mr Patten at what is expected to be a stormy meeting of European environment ministers in Luxembourg today and tomorrow.

Mr Thatchers was said yesterday to regard such a target as impossible to achieve at an acceptable cost to employment and living standards. Mr Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, warned that it would involve "major disruption to the economy".

In the background was a furious row over Labour charges that the Government had massacred the figures over CO₂ emissions, which are largely responsible for global warming, to make its own efforts look more favourable.

Continued on page 22, col 7

That was vehemently denied in government circles.

Mr Bryan Gould and Mr Frank Dobson, spokesmen for the environment and energy, committed Labour to the European Commission's proposals for stabilization by 2000. This will be resisted by Mr Patten at what is expected to be a stormy meeting of European environment ministers in Luxembourg today and tomorrow.

Last week Mr Jonathon Porritt, the retiring director of Friends of the Earth, said that Labour's lack of a CO₂ target was "a worrying touchstone of their green seriousness". But yesterday Mr Gould and Mr Dobson said Labour was drawing up a strategy for the 2000 target, which would be published in its "Alternative

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17/06/90

Canterbury dark horse frightens the bookies

BY ALAN HAMILTON

WILLIAM Hill, the bookmakers, suspended betting on another big race yesterday after a sudden and inexplicable rush of interest in a relative outsider. Suspicions were aroused when a string of punters wished, apparently out of the blue, to wager up to £1,000 on the Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, becoming the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

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minster, alarm bells rang and the book was quickly closed. "We would like

Zero alcohol limit for young drivers has built-in drawbacks

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 20 deaths and serious injuries every day among young drivers has convinced Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, that they must be the target of special legislation.

Evidence compiled by Department of Transport researchers show that drivers in the 18-30 age group accounted for almost half of all road deaths and serious injuries in 1988 - 7,852 out of 17,576. The carnage is even worse in the key group of 20 to 24 year olds. Almost 3,650 were killed or seriously injured in the same year.

Worse still, roadside tests carried out by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory show that drivers between the ages of 20 and 30 are the most likely to be over the legal alcohol limit behind the wheel. Almost 67 per cent of drivers

up to twice the limit came from that age group. Despite the mounting evidence, Britain has lagged behind much of Europe and the rest of the world in pinpointing the young or inexperienced driver as a high risk road user. France, West Germany, Portugal, Finland, Japan, Australia and Northern Ireland have schemes aimed at reining in the young motorist who passes his or her test and takes straight to the roads.

What Mr Parkinson will have to decide after consultations with motoring organizations, police and pressure groups is how far he can go in selecting one group for especially tough treatment. The most radical proposal - to enforce a zero alcohol limit on newly qualified drivers for the first two years of motoring - seems unworkable at the outset. It was greeted with derision by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, who said the

crackdown could mean that "even a wine gum or taking a sniff at the barmaid's apron" could convict people.

Police officers say that a zero limit could cause more problems than benefits. They maintain their belief that random testing is still the best deterrent against drinking and driving for any age group. Mr Walter Girven, chief constable of Wiltshire and secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee, said yesterday: "It has been shown that alcohol can stay in the blood for some time. We foresee difficulties where a new driver had a drink one day and still has traces of alcohol the next when he or she is tested."

Another drawback is that identification of newly qualified drivers may prove difficult as driving test pass dates are not printed on licences at the moment. However, police may still be

receptive to a scheme to force such drivers to be identified with a designation plate on their cars and face restrictions on driving.

New drivers in Northern Ireland are forced to carry an "R" plate (denoting restricted) for one year after passing their driving test and are restricted to a 45mph maximum speed. It was enough to reduce accidents.

A French scheme seems to have been more successful. There new drivers are limited to a top speed of 90 kmph (56 mph) for a year, and display a white 90 speed restriction plate on their cars. Authorities say it has helped to reduce accidents by about 15 per cent.

New drivers in West Germany do not suffer speed restrictions, but they do face a strict system of punishment by instruction. All drivers who rack up points for driving offences are eventually sent back for driving lessons, for which they pay

in addition to any fines. The points tally is reached quicker by a driver in the first two years after qualification and the teaching more expensive. In some cases, they must resit their driving test. Accidents have gone down between ten and 15 per cent, but police say traffic violations have been cut by half as a result.

Mr Parkinson is known to favour the "P" plate (to denote probationary for new drivers) scheme and probably a similar idea for convicted drunk drivers who would have an "R" plate on returning to the road.

Mr Parkinson said yesterday: "There is a growing realization that if you break the law and drink is involved you are in trouble. So the fact that there is a law will make people very wary of breaking it."

Leading article, page 13

Airline chief attacks government controls

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways' continuing frustration at the Government's refusal to allow it unlimited room for expansion erupted last night in a hard-hitting speech from Lord King of Wartnaby, its chairman.

Lord King, who is furious at the decision to ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the airline's attempt to take a 20 per cent stake in Sabena World Airways, launched into a bitter attack, claiming that he was struggling "against not only the efforts of our competitors but the shackles imposed by our own government."

"I have no intention of dying a death by a thousand cuts," he said at the City banquet in the Mansion House. "The Secretary of State will finally either permit or block our participation in the Brussels hub. The future will not be determined by the UK Government, but our government may well decide whether we are to be part of that future."

Speaking on the spot where Churchill made one of his memorable wartime speeches, Lord King said: "On June 4 50 years ago we were called to prepare ourselves to fight on the beaches and on the landing grounds. The tide of commercial conflict has rolled over the beaches and the battle for the landing grounds has already been joined."

"The gateways of today are the airfields deep in the territories which they serve. A commercial battle is raging on the landing grounds of Europe which will determine whether

Business News, page 23

Retired policeman killed by car bomb

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER police reservist was killed yesterday and his wife critically injured, when a bomb attached to the underside of their car exploded as they drove through north Belfast.

Mr James Sefton, aged 65, who retired three years ago, is thought to have died instantly in the blast. His wife, Ellen, also 65, was "seriously ill" last night. The IRA yesterday evening claimed responsibility for the attack, which police believe, involved a Semtex bomb.

The explosion happened at about 10am as the couple drove towards the city centre down Ballygartin Road. They had travelled only a couple of hundred yards and were passing a primary school when the device was activated.

Politicians from both communities were quick to condemn the killing. The 26th in Northern Ireland this year, Mr Albin Maginness, the local SDLP councillor, described it

as "callous, careless and sickening".

• A car believed to be the getaway vehicle used by IRA terrorists who shot dead an Army recruit and wounded two others in Lichfield, Staffordshire, six days ago, has been found 40 miles away in Shrewsbury (Craig Seton writes). Homes were evacuated yesterday while a bomb disposal team carried out controlled explosions to check if it contained explosives.

The red Ford Cortina, with a black vinyl roof, similar to one seen speeding away from the scene of the shooting, was found parked in Crewe Street, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday and had been kept under surveillance. If the car proves to be the getaway vehicle, it will be an important breakthrough by Staffordshire detectives investigating the shooting.

The two wounded soldiers, Private Neil Evans, aged 19, and Private Robert Parkin, aged 20, are recovering in hospital.

PETER TREVOR

Abortion conscience register attacked

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PROPOSAL to compel all doctors and nurses who refuse to take part in abortions on grounds of conscience to register their objection in a publicly available list has been bitterly denounced by MPs opposed to easier abortion.

Miss Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone, a leading figure in the unsuccessful backbench attempt in April to lower the upper time limit for abortion to at most 22 weeks, said it was "grossly offensive".

She said that the proposal, set out in an amendment to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, would be strongly resisted when it returns to the Commons for its final stages later this month.

Anti-abortion MPs have also tabled amendments, which are aimed at giving MPs a second chance of deciding whether they want "abortion up to birth". Their move follows the complicated series of late night votes at second reading, which backed the anti-abortion lobby by liberalizing the existing law.

The Commons decoupled abortion law from the effective 28-week limit imposed by the Infant Life Preservation Act and abolished all limits in cases of handicapped foetuses and where the mother's health was at grave risk. Miss Widdecombe argued that the register, which would be open to scrutiny by health authorities as well as the public in libraries, would jeopardize the career prospects of doctors opposed to abortion.

But its supporters insisted that it was needed to help women seeking an abortion to avoid unsympathetic doctors and so reduce delays.

Miss Jo Richardson, Labour's frontbench spokesman on women, who is sponsoring the amendment, said that far too many late abortions were caused by NHS delays.

• Concern that women are being unduly pressurised into donating eggs at infertility clinics was expressed by the chairman of the Interim Licensing Authority for Human In Vitro Fertilisation and Embryology yesterday. Dame Mary Donaldson was announcing new guidelines to protect donors.

The guidelines stress that donors should never be paid cash for their eggs. Donors will also be allowed to withdraw at any stage without incurring any cost.

Explaining the guidelines, Dame Mary said: "We are very concerned about inducements offered to women to offer eggs. Centres are increasingly advertising for egg donors. There is a general concern about inducements."

She also voiced concern at the poor success rate of some clinics. Latest annual figures for test tube births, published in the authority's fifth and penultimate report, show a drop in successful five births from 10.1 per cent of infertility treatments to 9.1 per cent; even though the pregnancy rate went up.



Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, trying on a motorcycle rider's helmet at Potters Bar yesterday at the opening of a safety scheme for pizza delivery riders

Split on strip mill closure

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

A DISPUTE on whether to launch a parliamentary inquiry into British Steel's closure of the Ravenscraig strip mill has split the Commons trade and industry committee.

After a heated private session yesterday, the Tory-dominated committee agreed to ask for written evidence from the trade unions representing the 770 workers who lost their jobs at the Motherwell plant.

The committee already has evidence from British Steel and will consider calling Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, after receiving all the written evidence. However Mr Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat MP for North East Fife, failed to persuade the committee to mount a full-scale investigation immediately.

Rifkind admitted in the Commons yesterday that he is still trying to get information from British Steel about its plans for the strip mill. The Scottish Secretary has strongly condemned the closure.

Along with journey times

on the inter-capital services between London and Paris through the Channel tunnel, journey times on domestic commuter services would be cut dramatically.

The European Rail Link consortium, comprising British Rail, Trafalgar House and BICC, estimates that the new line could be built for £2.6 billion. It would require, however, a £400 million Government subsidy. In exchange, Network SouthEast would get a 50 per cent stake in the line's capacity for commuter services.

Firms will quit UK unless tunnel links get funds, CBI says

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS will migrate to northern France unless Britain invests more in new road and rail links to serve the Channel tunnel, Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Its advocates say that a decision to proceed with the project would rectify many of the errors of the 19th century, when the existing railway infrastructure in Kent was built, revolutionize the journey to and from London, and stimulate economic growth in poorer regions of Kent.

Without additional transport infrastructure, London would become a "cork in a bottle", effectively starving northern England, the Southwest and south Wales of the investment in manufacturing and commerce that need to compete in the European single market, he said.

Mr Banham said that France was planning substantial investment in high-speed rail links and a doubling of its motorway network during the next decade, while Britain needs to compete in the European single market, he said.

Mr Banham said that the future of Britain's proposed high-speed rail link, which would go some way to alleviate the concerns of Mr Banham and other business leaders, remains in the balance while the Government decides whether to back the

scheme. Tens of thousands of Kent commuters also await the decision on the proposed 68-mile link between Folkestone and London.

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Clarke defends eye test figures after poll doubts

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government cast doubt last night on the credibility of an opinion poll it commissioned into the number of people having eye tests amid arguments about the effects of charging for eye examinations.

As Labour revealed figures showing a drop of more than three million in eye tests since charges were introduced, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, said a recent poll suggested there had been no real reduction in demand for sight tests.

Mr Clarke produced figures from an NOP poll, commissioned by the Department of Health, which indicated that five million adults and children had sight tests in the first quarter of the year. An assessment of the poll by the department, however, admits that there is a disparity between the NOP's results and the known number of NHS sight tests paid for in the first three months of the year.

The assessment said: "The disparity between the NOP's results for NHS sight testing and the known number of NHS sight tests paid for casts some doubt on the credibility of the results."

It suggests that the disparity might have been caused by "over reporting". Defending the Government's policy, Mr Clarke said even if the NOP survey, suggesting that five million people had eye tests in the first quarter of 1990, was 50 per cent higher than the true figure it would still be in line with projected increases based on the 10 years to 1987.

He said: "The past 15 months seem to have been entirely consistent with what any reasonable person might have expected. There was a rush before the changes were introduced when 4.5 million people — an abnormally high number — had their sight tested in the first three months of 1989. There was then an inevitable dip, after which the number of sight tests recovered to their former normal levels."

Figures produced from surveys conducted by optometrists contradicted Mr Clarke's assertion. While the Department of Health recorded 13.2 million eye

Visionary's dream to come true

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A CALCULATING machine designed by Charles Babbage more than 150 years ago is to be completed by the Science Museum in a project that could prove Britain threw away a 100-year lead in computer technology.

Babbage's Difference Engine No.2, which was designed to calculate to 30 decimal places, is to be built at a cost of £213,000, with the backing of electronics and computer companies, including ICL. The Science Museum team believes that if the Difference Engine works, it will prove that Babbage's steam-powered Analytical Engine, a precursor of the modern computer, would also have worked.

Babbage spent £32,000 of his own and sponsors' money on the Difference Engine, but abandoned the design when the government would not back the project. He later began working on the Analytical Engine with its punch cards, primitive memory store and other crude features of a modern microcomputer.

Conventional wisdom is that the limitations of 19th century technology meant the parts could have never been toolled with enough precision to function. But curators at the Science Museum in London have built a section of the Difference Engine No.2 to prove it was possible. Now they hope to complete the machine in time for the bicentenary of the scientist's birth next year. In doing so, they will also determine whether the Analytical Engine could have worked, and so advanced the invention of the computer by a century.

In the action, before Mr Justice Millett, Mr Clark's production company claims that Rank failed to run an efficient box office to gain from "phenomenal" publicity.

Technology, page 7

Reward doubled

The reward for information about the killers of Mr Rajibhai Patel, the sub-postmaster shot dead in Hackney, north-east London, has been doubled to £20,000 by the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters. It warned members not to risk their lives to protect post office money.

Report 'misled'

A headline and report in *The Independent* about radioactive soil dumping was misleading because it implied that the waste site was not legally authorized to take it, the Press Council says today, upholding a complaint by a waste firm, the Shanks and McEwan group, of Aylesbury, Bucks.

Polish service

THE BBC is to begin broadcasting on Polish radio via satellite in the first formal arrangement with the eastern bloc. Mr John Tusa, managing director of the BBC World Service, said yesterday. Satellite transmission will begin next month with the launch of the new Eutelsat satellite.

Abbey service

Mrs Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Lord Mackay of Clashfern were among those who attended a memorial service for Lord Bruce-Gardyne, the former Treasury minister and journalist, at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday.

Memorial service, page 14

Pavement performance in effort to save the Dominion

MICHAEL POWELL



Tom Conti, the actor, campaigning yesterday to save the Dominion Theatre, London, with Natalie Wright, aged 16, who plays the lead role in *Bernadette*

By SIMON TAFT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ACTORS and conservationists were joined yesterday in a demonstration outside the Dominion Theatre, in Tottenham Court Road, central London, by the cast of the new musical *Bernadette* as the campaign to save the theatre from demolition

fines. The points tally is reached in the first two years she must now turn her driving license over between her and the police. Traffic violations have been seen as a result. It is known to far out the "R" plate or similar idea for convicted drivers would have an "R" plate in said yesterday. "There is no point if you break the law and get you into trouble. So the law will make people very careful."

Leading article, page 12

defends st figures all doubts

National detective squad could fight organized crime

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN could have a computerized national criminal intelligence unit by autumn next year covering offences from football hooliganism to drug trafficking and organized crime, police chiefs were told yesterday.

A nationwide detective group could be in place soon afterwards, and plans were being drawn up to restructure nine regional crime squads so their 1,200 officers can form the basis of the investigation group, the Association of Chief Police Officers' conference in Torquay was told.

Mr John Smith, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in charge of specialist CID, expected the national intelligence unit to start in the summer or autumn of next year. The investigation unit could be ready soon

Mr Neil Dickens, national co-ordinator of the regional crime squads, said a report was due soon on the restructuring of the squads and he is due to complete work by the end of this month on what should be included in the intelligence unit.

Police are examining the possibility of combining records held by 11 different police departments. They cover arts and antiques thefts, paedophilia, food contamination, links with Interpol, animal rights activities, serious fraud, mobile criminals, the new national football hooligan unit, and the national drugs intelligence unit. The new unit would be a clearing house not only in Britain but for links to the rest of Europe and the world, using the Interpol communications network.

Mr John Hodinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire, said the changes in law and policing methods meant it was no longer possible for police to concentrate and crack down on gangs as they had in the 1960s. Organized crime was approached as if it were street crime when control strategy was needed, sometimes sabotaging plans rather than prosecuting.

He cited a planned fraud using a derelict Welsh colliery to fleece investors. Police scared off potential stockholders and thwarted the criminals.

But Mr John Wood, director of the Serious Fraud Office, argued against a direct move to national units, certainly for fraud. He suggested that regional fraud squads should be set up with teams of accountants and lawyers.

He was speaking during a presentation on fraud in which Det Chief Supt Perry Nove, head of the City of London Fraud Squad, called on companies and police to give fraud prevention a higher profile. Too often companies had no plans to cope with the discovery of fraud which meant that evidence might be destroyed or tampered with before investigators arrived.

He said the organizers of fraud and drug in the 1990s had taken the place of the armed robbers of the 1960s.

Major criminals were operating new frauds, especially in attacks on the banking system, subverting staff and getting inside information to evade controls.

Electronic money transfers were attractive to fraudsters because of the speed at which they operated.

Criminals did not try to break into systems, but reached them by corruption. The amount of money at risk

uncovered by investigators after 1992. Mr Gavin said the total weight of seizures is also higher than for the whole of last year.

Crack now accounted for a fifth of all cocaine seizures, the conference was told, and Mr McFarlane said the stereotype

profile of the addict as a white male was likely to change. There would be more women and Afro-Caribbean addicts as cocaine use took over from heroin abuse.

Mr McFarlane said the market in cocaine and amphetamines would overshadow heroin over the next five years and heroin use would stabilize.

Mr McFarlane's picture contrasted sharply with the American experience described by Mr William Gavin, head of the FBI office in Florida. He said 25 million Americans had tried cocaine, six million used it at least once a month and three million were thought to be addicts. Five thousand became cocaine abusers each day.

As many as 100,000 baby addicts were born each year because of their mother's use of narcotics. Mr Gavin said drug sales in the United States were estimated to be worth \$110 billion a year, which is more than the income of the country's farmers.

He said Europe offered a fertile centre for laundering drug profits. A recent American operation called Polarcap investigating a billion-dollar laundering network found that \$40 million (£23.8 million) had been laundered through London banks.

The use of the European banking system by other launderers could increase with growing economic freedom after 1992. Mr Gavin said the removal of border and exchange controls coupled with the liberalization of banking regulations would help drug traffickers to move money.

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for crash
driver

Passport
true
Reward
true

Rewards
true

Cocaine problems spreading more slowly than in US

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

EVIDENCE is growing that Britain may escape the worst of the problems of cocaine abuse, a senior Home Office official said yesterday.

Although seizures of crack, a refinement of cocaine, are rising steeply and the first trickle of addicts has appeared at drug treatment clinics, Mr Alan McFarlane, the Home Office Chief Inspector of Drugs, delivered an optimistic message to the conference.

He said that experience over the past three years suggested that neither cocaine nor crack had spread in Britain at the speed at which they had in the United States. "There are very good reasons for thinking our problems, developing as they are, will not be as severe as in the United States."

Britain had not been swamped with cocaine and the country had the best defences of any western country in combating drug problems. Crack addicts had appeared at three London drug treatment clinics and some had shown signs of violent psychosis which has been linked to the drug, but the numbers were understood to be small.

Mr McFarlane said crack had become a standard commodity in dealing networks in English cities. Police have made 97 seizures of crack so far this year, compared with 138 last year. The total weight of seizures is also higher than for the whole of last year.

Crack now accounted for a fifth of all cocaine seizures, the conference was told, and Mr McFarlane said the stereotype

High cost of shady solicitors

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DISHONEST solicitors who abscond with clients' money will cost the profession nearly £27 million in compensation between now and the end of 1991, the Law Society has estimated.

A report before the society's council today shows that there has been a big rise in claims on the Solicitors' Compensation Fund, and for increasing sums. Last year, the fund received 813 claims for compensation totalling £14.6 million, compared with 577 totalling £6.7 million in 1988.

The high total last year was chiefly because of "six extraordinary defaulters" who gave rise to claims of more than £7 million, the Solicitors' Com-

plaints' Bureau said yesterday. One is believed to be the late Mr Hugh Simmonds, the Buckinghamshire solicitor found dead in his car in November 1988. Claims from his clients total £3.8 million.

The fund is expected to face claims estimated at some £4.5 million this year and £5 million next year. The report from the society's adjudication committee estimates total liabilities up to the end of next year, including outstanding claims, will be £26.8 million gross. The fund already has some £12 million assets in hand.

Miss Mavis Fairhurst, a spokesman for the Solicitors' Complaints' Bureau, said yes-

Letters, page 13

MP speaks up for threatened frogs

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Labour MP Mr Tam Dalyell, a stalwart defender of the down trodden, has taken up the cause of the once ubiquitous common frog.

Mr Dalyell, who has about 20 frogs spawning regularly in a pond at his National Trust home near Linlithgow, Lothian, has voiced concern that the species could soon be extinct in much of Britain.

He called for ponds, like trees, to become subject to preservation orders so that frogs, which play a vital part in keeping waters healthy, can be safeguarded for future generations.

"I am a natural frog taker. Frogs are an important part of the ecology. I have had frogs in the pond in my garden since I was a child and I think my grandchildren are entitled to frogs also."

Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told Mr Dalyell in a letter that he shared his concern about the drop in frog numbers.

Scientists all over the world are alarmed by the decline and in some cases disappearance

of frogs, which have been around since the time of the dinosaurs. A panel has been convened in America to study the problem.

Mr Mary Swan, a scientist at Leicester Polytechnic, in a report funded by the Nature Conservancy Council, discovered that there were 20 per cent fewer ponds than 30 years ago in Britain. Less than half the ponds checked contained frogs, an estimated frog loss of two million in three decades.

About eight million frogs are now estimated to breed at about 66,500 sites in rural Britain.

That loss does not take into account the growth of the urban frog, which has been made welcome in garden ponds. Dr Swan, who is now researching ways of improving habitats around ponds, said:

"Until we know more about garden sites, the actual status of the frog in terms of numbers will be unknown."

Of 50 key frog-breeding sites identified in 1983, seven were revisited last year

and had deteriorated rather badly," she said. Researchers



Lucy Metherell, aged four, comes face to face with a swaying, "breathing" replica of a Maiasaura, a dinosaur that roamed what is now Montana 80 million years ago. Ten prehistoric beasts have been given life thanks to the latest computer and compressor technology in an

exhibition at the Natural History Museum. The stars of "Return of the Living Dinosaurs" move their heads and necks and roll their eyes as their "lungs" pump air, accompanied by a soundtrack of primal grunts and shrieks. All they do not do is walk about. The models, which

also include a four-and-a-half metre tall Tyrannosaurus rex and a Anatosaurus, are the work of the Japanese Kokoro Company Ltd. The dinosaurs' skeletons have been made from aluminium and in some of the big exhibits up to 30 computer-controlled pneumatic air

cylinders have been used to simulate muscle movements. In a display of a nesting Maiasaura, eggs rock in anticipation of hatching and others have tiny twitching heads peering through newly broken shells. The exhibition is open from today to November 8.

Maguire Seven inquiry

Evidence contradicted by report

By MICHAEL HORNELL

THE last-minute discovery of a document prepared by a government scientist could have wrecked the validity of prosecution forensic evidence and led to the acquittal of the Maguire Seven in 1976, it emerged yesterday at the judicial inquiry into the case and the associated wrongful conviction of the Guildford Four, who were freed last year.

The buyer must be able to swallow the fact that the present owner – an anonymous Englishman from the area – bought it only two years ago for £87,000, albeit a

The inquiry, under the former Court of Appeal judge Sir John May, was told that the document impugned a vital scientific test that had identified nitroglycerine in swabs taken from the Maguire defendants and on which the Seven were convicted of running an IRA bomb factory.

Mrs Annie Maguire, now aged 54, her husband, Patrick, 57, their sons, Patrick, 29, and Vincent, 31, and three others were sentenced to custody in 1976.

Mr Roy Davids, a Sotheby's expert, said: "It is probably the most famous lordship in existence. If our number plates can make £250,000, the Lordship for Stratford, with its remarkable history and associations should be able to make more."

Dating from eighth century, the lordship has been held by a succession of Bishops of Worcester; by John Dudley, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland (the Lord Protector who was executed in 1553); by Queen Elizabeth I's favourite Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester (it was her personal gift to him) and from the seventeenth century onwards, by the Sackville family, Earls of Dorset. The Stratford title entered the market in April 1988, when Lord Sackville, a relation of the Bloomsbury via Sackville-West, sold it at auction.

Mr Davids said: "The lordship of the manor may be used on visiting cards and legal documents. These things sell on the fact that people like to be called lord of the manor."

According to Mr Davids, a buyer may also unearth long-forgotten rights, such as that to hold fairs and markets, not to mention fishing and quarrying in the district.

The reference he eventually

made to the document had

been obtained from Mr Howard Yallop, an explosives expert, immediately before the trial judge began his summing up at the Central Criminal Court.

Moves were made by counsel to recall Mr Yallop, who had previously given evidence for the defence, but it had been decided to settle instead for a statement, agreed with the prosecution, to be read to the jury.

It had also been agreed that the Judge Sir John Donaldson should make clear to the jury in his summing up that the significance of the document was that it showed the scientific test was not specific for nitroglycerine, as the prosecution had asserted throughout the trial. Amid confusion, Sir John had told all the lawyers, in the absence of the jury, that he had almost reached the point at which he might have to dismiss the case.

Two junior defence barristers in the trial said yesterday that the document had

allegedly failed to make the point that defence counsel had expected about the significance of the document.

The document's arrival at the court on March 1, 1976, and its impact on the case were described by two barristers, Mr Antonio Bueno, now a QC, and Mr Patrick Mullen.

The document's author was Mr Walter Elliott, a scientist at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) which did the forensic tests in the Maguire case. He had sent it to Mr Yallop, his former colleague, then writing a book.

It had also been agreed that the Judge Sir John Donaldson should make clear to the jury in his summing up that the significance of the document was that it showed the scientific test was not specific for nitroglycerine, as the prosecution had asserted throughout the trial. Amid confusion, Sir John had told all the lawyers, in the absence of the jury, that he had almost reached the point at which he might have to dismiss the case.

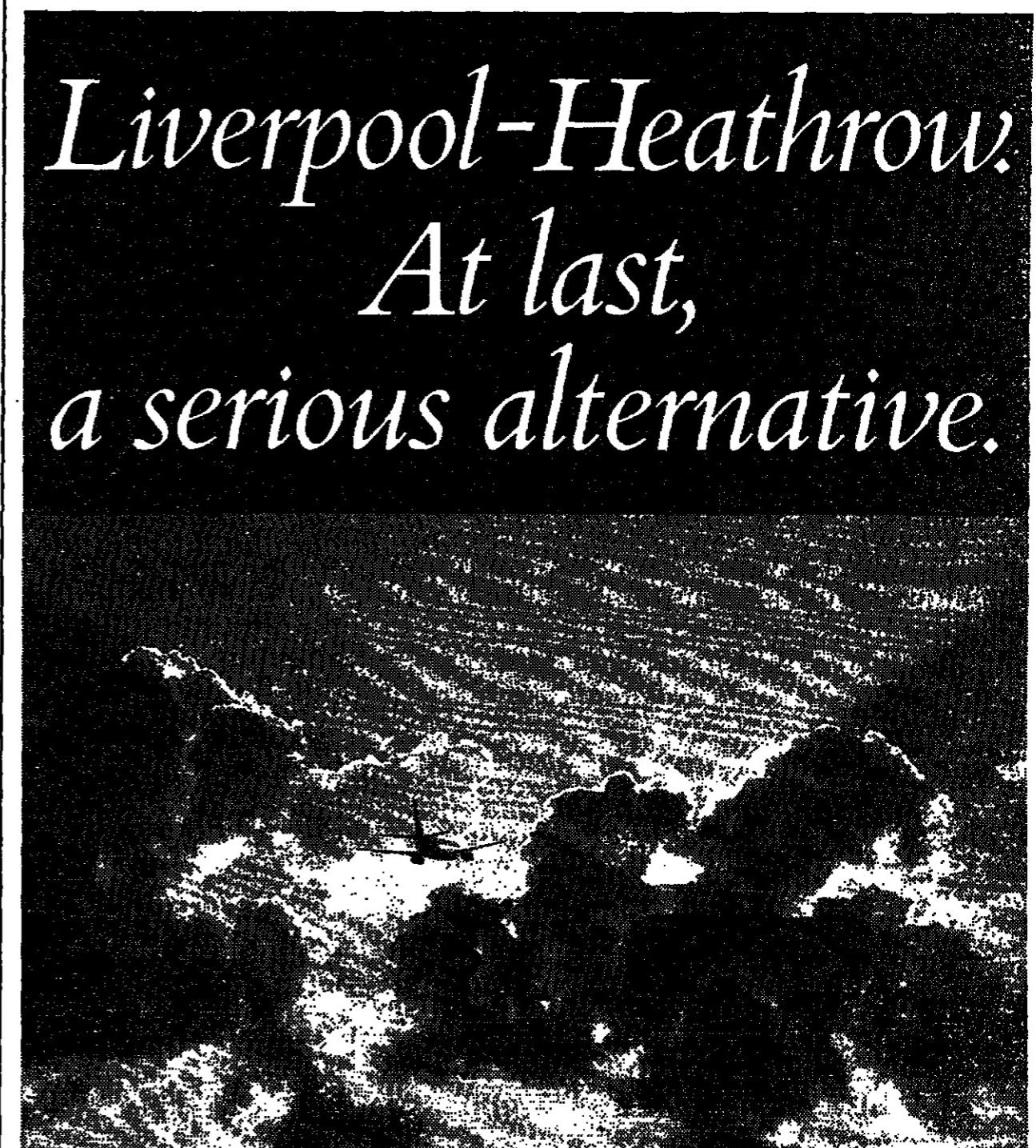
The reference he eventually made to the document, however, in his summing up

had been agreed to make the defence for the defence rather than his recall as a witness.

Mr Bueno said: "We were thrown into a state of disarray. I was terribly disappointed Mr Yallop was recalled."

He said: "We were placed in the most appalling dilemma."

The inquiry continues today.



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		Max. Repayment Period	36 months	36 months	36 months
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		Finance Charges	£1660.80	£1689.12	£1722.25
		Total Credit Price*	£10445.80	£10624.12	£10652.25
4 Years	8.9% p.a. 17.3% APR	Minimum Deposit 20%	£1752	£1782	£1817
		Max. Repayment Period	48 months	48 months	48 months
		Monthly Payment	£197.97	£201.36	£205.32
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Saunders denies warning of illegality

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Guinness family would have "run a mile" from any suggestion that its takeover of Distillers involved criminal acts, Ernest Saunders, the brewing group's former chief executive, said yesterday.

Giving evidence in his defence for the second day at the Guinness trial at Southwark Crown Court in London Mr Saunders rejected claims that a board meeting had been given legal advice that part of the takeover arrangements could be unlawful.

"It is simply inconceivable," he said. "The meeting would have ended then and there. No-one in their right mind would go into a terrible situation like that. If it had been said I would not find myself in the place I am now."

Mr Saunders and three other leading City figures deny charges arising out of Guinness's takeover in 1986 of the Distillers drinks combine. Appearing in the dock with Mr Saunders are Gerald Ronson, chairman of the Heron International group of companies, Anthony Barnes, a City stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the millionaire financier.

They all deny 24 counts alleging theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act arising out of an alleged illegal share support operation which enabled Guinness to take control of Distillers.

Mr Saunders was asked by Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, his defence counsel, to comment on evidence given earlier in the 17-week trial by Mr Anthony Salz, a member of Guinness's solicitors at the time, Freshfields. Mr Salz had said that he warned the board meeting of January 19 which decided to go ahead with the takeover bid that a promise from the Distiller's board to pay Guinness's costs of the offer could break the Companies Act.

Mr Saunders replied: "It is certainly not my recollection. For Salz to say he sat me down and we discussed Section 151 of the Companies Act just is not right. The concept of Guinness being involved in any possible breach of the criminal law and the board of directors saying 'That's okay,' is inconceivable.

The Guinness board was still largely a family company. I knew these people well, if they thought there was some sort of criminal liability they would have run a mile; and so

would I." Mr Saunders said that he was aware generally of the illegal issues involved as he was of the financial ones, but he would only become directly involved if a serious problem arose. "And that would have included advice that there was a possibility of a major criminal offence."

If Mr Salz had spoken to him "it certainly would have set alarm bells ringing. You don't forget something like that."

The takeover itself had provoked immediate hostility and on February 13 1986, it was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mr Saunders said that at that point he believed Guinness had lost the deal for he

If the board had thought there was criminal liability, they would have run a mile

expected the commission to take up to six months to deliver a ruling, during which time rival bidders Argyll would have a clear field. Why they did not make a final bid I shall never know."

After the announcement that the bid was to be referred he said he experienced one of his lowest moments. "All my highly paid advisers had gone, saying better luck next time. I never felt so lonely in all my life." In anger he wrote a letter to the Prime Minister demanding to meet the Cabinet minister with responsibility for trade and industry. But that was Mr Paul Channon, a member of the Guinness family and he was referred to the head of the Department of Trade and Industry's competitions department.

Over the next few days he had meetings with senior politicians and government officials in an effort to persuade them that they should not be looking at competition in just the United Kingdom, but at the possibility of creating a drinks company capable of matching some of the largest companies in the world.

Mr Saunders denied behaving like a megalomaniac with a series of takeover deals during the mid 1980s. After buying up a number of small companies Guinness paid £370 million for Bells Whisky in August 1985, and then

moved on early the next year to bid for the Scottish drinks group Distillers, a company larger than Guinness.

Mr Saunders rejected a suggestion by Mr Ferguson that the takeovers were "some form of megalomania, an ego trip for Ernest Saunders". Mr Saunders said: "That is just nonsense, I'm afraid. The reason for the acquisition of Bells was very straightforward. Guinness faced the future after a remarkable turnaround of its fortunes, but it was never going to be a mass market brand on a world scale. It had only one brand in the drinks business. Where was the growth going to come from?"

Mr Saunders said the fight for Bells between June and August 1985 had been acrimonious. "There was a great strength of feeling against the taking over of a Scottish company by foreigners. In this case, foreigners included companies based in England."

"There was considerable ill-will in Scotland generated by the chairman of Bells who did not want to be taken over. There was an almost hysterical political noise led by two Scottish MPs, Nicholas Fairbairn and Bill Walker, and a number of their associates in the Scottish whisky lobby group of MPs. Also the Scottish press were vitriolic."

He spent most of the bid period canvassing support in Scotland among influential figures in commerce and industry and in the political field in an ultimately successful effort to avoid referral of the takeover.

Mr Saunders denied suggestions that he had put "his cronies" into seats on the Guinness board, particularly Dr Arthur Furet, his former colleague at his old company, Nestle, and Mr Tom Ward, the American lawyer. Mr Saunders said that Mr Ward had been appointed to the board after giving tremendous service to Guinness in Nigeria, where much of the company's profits at that time came from.

draconian import restrictions threatened the closure of Guinness's five breweries there but Mr Ward had used contacts in Washington to ensure raw materials were allowed through. Rival breweries had been closed down. "My philosophy of life is that it is better to work with someone you know and trust; to say he was a crony is

mischievous".

He said that Lord Iveyagh, Guinness's chairman, had seen the takeover of Distillers as a way to restore the status of the Guinness family as a key business force. He said when he came to discuss the possibility of a takeover with his chairman, shortly after the Bells deal, he had advised initially that Guinness should adopt a watch-and-wait policy and consider its options, but Lord Iveyagh's reaction was remarkable.

"We had just completed an unpleasant and acrimonious affair. The last thing we needed was another Bells situation. Lord Iveyagh said he was in favour of anything which would restore the Guinness family to where it

should have been. He said that if the Guinness family had done in its second hundred years what it had done in the first hundred, remembering that it was not only a brewing concern, but into finance as well, then the business would have been up with the Rothschilds."

Mr Saunders said that he was not aware Distillers was "up for sale", until he read a statement by the Argyll supermarket chain issued on the direction of the Monopolies Commission that it was not preparing a bid for the drinks firm.

He alerted his team to check on the possibilities of a takeover but it was not until Christmas 1985, that it became a practicality. The idea

was discussed after Christmas lunch at Mr Saunderson's holiday home in Switzerland with Dr Furet and Mr Ward. It was then discussed by the Guinness board early in January 1986.

He said that Guinness's merchant bankers, Morgan Grenfell, were "very pushy" for a bid to be made. "You must remember the climate at that time. The City was awash with money."

At the time the takeover was the biggest the City had seen. Mr Saunders said that Morgan Grenfell had a reputation for being aggressive and in the recent past it had been on the losing side of a number of takeovers.

The hearing continues today.



Mr Saunders arriving yesterday and (top right) Lord Iveyagh, Guinness chairman, and Mr Fairbairn, who, Mr Saunders said, made "hysterical political noise"



and Mr Fairbairn, who, Mr Saunders said, made "hysterical political noise"

Foreigners revive Tower's fortunes

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH families are turning their backs on their heritage and heading instead for American-style theme parks. But a decade of decline in the number of people visiting some of Britain's historical monuments appears to have been halted, thanks largely to foreign tourists.

More than 17 million foreign visitors came to Britain last year, nearly two million more than in 1988, and five million up on the 1978 figure. For many, the Tower of London, Windsor Castle and Anne Hathaway's Cottage were a top priority, helping to reverse a 10-year decline.

An Economic Intelligence Unit report on travel and tourism says that only the Roman Baths in Bath and Warwick Castle of 14 historic properties showed an increase in visitors between 1978 and 1988. All the others showed a marked fall. Last year, however, the Tower climbed back from 2,182,000 to 2,214,000. Edinburgh Castle went up from 958,000 to more than a million and the Windsor State Apartments went up from 70,000 to 808,000.

Meanwhile, the number of people visiting "theme parks" continued to rise dramatically. All four theme parks in Britain's top 20 tourist attractions are attracting more visitors, nearly all of whom are British. Alton Towers, which in 1981 attracted just under a million people, now has more than 2.4 million a year.

Dr Patrick Lavery, deputy director of Humberside College of Higher Education and a leading tourism expert said last night: "There has been a tremendous growth in the number of theme park type attractions. I suspect the total size of the domestic market has stayed the same and therefore the market share for historic houses has fallen."

The Tower says it has had the best start to a season for 10 years. Although it is trying to increase the number of British visitors, 75 per cent will still come from overseas.

Lord Strathclyde, the minister for tourism, said yesterday that in the first quarter of this year, the number of foreign tourists increased by 4 per cent to 3.5 million, spending £1.3 billion.

Stolen bonds found in Cyprus

Police in Cyprus have recovered £80.5 million-worth of the £292 million bonds stolen from a messenger in the City of London last month from a bank on the island.

A man allegedly involved in negotiations concerning the documents is being held in custody in the self-proclaimed republic of North Cyprus and two City of London detectives have flown out to interview him. He may be brought back to Britain to face charges.

Last week three men were arrested at Heathrow airport allegedly with \$80 bonds worth £77.3 million. They were said to have arrived in a British Airways flight from Dublin in transit to Miami, Florida. The three have since appeared in court accused of conspiring to handle stolen goods.

'Bomb' charge

Mr Saad Ebrahimi, aged 37, of Long Beach, California, was remanded in custody at Ayr Sheriff court yesterday accused of claiming that he was in possession of a bomb while flying on a Pan Am 747 airliner from Frankfurt to Washington on Tuesday. He was arrested at Prestwick Airport where the plane made an emergency landing.

Death scratch

A verdict of accidental death was recorded at Stretton, West Yorkshire, yesterday on Mrs Frances Glover, aged 83, who died after being scratched by one of the stray cats she fed at her home in Sutton, near Bradford.

£4,000 damages

Danielle Heath, aged six, of Hackney, east London, who was left scarred after being thrown through the windscreen of her parents' car in an accident blamed on dense smoke from a stubble-burning fire, won £4,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Inquest delay

The inquest into the death of the murdered Great Train Robber Charles Wilson has been adjourned until the end of this month. The coroner at Battersea, south London, agreed to the delay.

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Better police communications 'could improve 999 service'

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT



Mr Davies: "Control room is the key to efficiency"

POLICE forces could provide an improved emergency service that also gives better value for money, according to a survey of police communications by the Audit Commission published today.

The report says that the 999 police emergency system operates with few checks on the time taken to answer calls, the suitability of the response and whether the police or public are satisfied. Without such monitoring, it is difficult to know how good the service is. Unlike the fire or ambulance services, no national

standards are set for emergency responses.

After several decades of introducing computer systems, the commission suggests that, although there is no evidence to show the 999 system is bad, many forces should consider reorganizing their systems to take advantage of the latest technology and make them more efficient.

The present communication and emergency systems cost £160 million a year to operate but £25 million a year could be saved by using more non-police staff, different shift patterns, modern telephone networks and information systems and reorganizing control

rooms. Chief constables are said to have welcomed suggestions in the report and some forces are already carrying out surveys of resources, one of the points covered.

The report says that police research shows that the public rates the response to urgent calls as one of its priorities. It costs £300,000 a year to keep a mobile two-man crew on the road 24 hours a day, equal to 10 community beat officers working an eight-hour day.

Mr Howard Davies, Controller of the Audit, said: "The effectiveness of police communications rooms is a key factor in determining the quality of service provided to the public and ensuring the effective use of police officers on patrol. Our study found that many forces could provide a much improved service that also gives better value for money."

The report notes that the provincial police-call system handles 40 million calls a year of which 12 million are emergency calls. About 65,000 officers are deployed to 17 million incidents of which six million need urgent attention.

The report was based on surveys of 15 forces ranging from the main provincial forces such as Greater Manchester, the West Midlands and West Yorkshire to Thames Valley, the largest shire force, and small forces including Dorset.

Only the Northamptonshire force, which has a reputation for advanced management and carrying out value-for-money exercises, was found to be checking the time taken to answer calls.

Forces have adopted different types of communication systems ranging from a central control to a two-tier system including smaller local control rooms. Costs vary from £1,260 per officer to £2,160 per officer.

Research on one force showed that 27 per cent of calls to a subdivision communications room were not answered within 30 seconds and in more than 80 per cent of those cases the caller rang

off before being answered. Some forces have logging systems showing where officers are working but these are not always kept up-to-date and in one force a random test showed information on 12 officers was out of date.

Monitoring the time taken for officers to reach urgent situations has been abandoned because they often fail to report their arrival, unlike ambulance or fire crews. Within control rooms, monitoring is needed to check how resources are used, the report says. Control room staff could have their hours tailored to the periods of greatest need and surveys could be carried out to assess public satisfaction.

DES JENSON

Teachers will have more freedom in geography lessons

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS are to be given more freedom in teaching the National Curriculum after final recommendations yesterday from the geography working party. It is the first report to be published since Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last Easter that she thought the curriculum was too restrictive and prevented teachers using their individual skills.

The working party's interim report published last November was criticized by teachers for much the same reasons. They said that it covered too much ground and was too prescriptive. The final version allows teachers more time to organize their own work within a compulsory framework.

Sir Leslie Fielding, vice-chancellor of Sussex University and chairman of the working party, said he did not believe the group had been influenced by the Prime Minister. He said: "We were going to address the problem anyway. Inside the group we felt that we should produce a slimmed-down report to avoid overload. It is more teacher friendly and something that they can use."

"We thought that teachers should be given more freedom. They will have more flexibility to use their own

materials and methods but they will not be free to do what they like. We have spent out the programmes of study and hope teachers will turn to that."

Sir Leslie said that although the report had been trimmed, it contained the essential ingredients of the interim report published last November. A significant change was the move away from dividing the world into two, North and South, the developed and underdeveloped world.

He said: "That did meet some criticism and we felt that it would be difficult to sustain. There were also one or two writers who wrote to say we were turning the world into white geography and black geography." Pupils will now have to study their home area and region, the United Kingdom within the European Community and the wider world.

Other areas of study will be: geographical skills, including the use of maps and diagrams and fieldwork; physical geography to develop a knowledge of weather and climate, rivers and seas; landforms, animals, plants and soils; human geography, giving an understanding of population, settlements, communications and movements and economic activi-

What pupils should know of the world

THE working party recommendations include the following examples of what children should be able to do at seven, 11, 14 and 16.

At seven: Use diagrams to record wet, dry, hot, cold, windy and calm periods; describe the use of land for homes, farming, transport, recreation and industry; understand the nature of homes and activity in the locality; identify local plants, animals and weather; draw pictures to illustrate seasonal weather; investigate how far local people travel to do shopping, visit relatives or take holidays; and understand how waste is disposed of.

At 11: Use information gathered in a field to draw a sketch map; understand the links between their local area and other regions, transport, commuting patterns and the sources of goods in local shops; investigate recent development and its effect on the locality; describe the effect of tourism on a small Caribbean island; examine the characteristics of soil from different sites; understand the influence of land and weather on farming; and discuss the arguments about hunting elephants for ivory and other animals for fur.

At 14: Compare the quality of life in

selected countries as indicated by economics, infant mortality rates, life expectancy, literacy, food and energy consumption; examine the issues associated with a declining industrial base, rapid population growth and the pressures of visitors on a scenically attractive area; understand the problems caused by the decline of traditional heavy industries in south Wales; investigate the sources of power used in Japan and its heavy dependence on imported fuels; use a diagram to identify the flow, storage and distribution of water; and understand the development of coal, oil and nuclear fuel and some of the alternatives.

At 16: Use maps to identify varying heights in the Italian Alps, transport routes in the Rhine Valley and settlement in the Paris basin; examine the relationship between environmental, technological, social and political factors; understand European Community directives concerning pollution; analyse the regional variations in prosperity in Brazil; examine how human activities can accelerate coastal erosion; describe factors that lead to the growth of a town; and understand why rain forests, tundra and wetlands are particularly fragile.

School wins battle to opt-out

THE long battle for Beechen Cliff School, Bath, to opt-out of state control is officially over. Opposition from the county council crumbled with a landslide vote yesterday against further action.

Leaders of the council's education committee unanimously agreed not to appeal against the ruling by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to allow the 800-pupil school to opt-out. The school's fight for independence, allowed under the 1988 Education Reform Act, has been seen as a test case. Mr James Ewing, governor of the school, said the decision "means stability and a sure future".

At 16: Use maps to identify varying heights in the Italian Alps, transport routes in the Rhine Valley and settlement in the Paris basin; examine the relationship between environmental, technological, social and political factors; understand European Community directives concerning pollution; analyse the regional variations in prosperity in Brazil; examine how human activities can accelerate coastal erosion; describe factors that lead to the growth of a town; and understand why rain forests, tundra and wetlands are particularly fragile.



Poster modernism: Political posters in "Collecting for the Future: a Decade of Contemporary Acquisitions", an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, central London, which attempts to explain how a museum acquires items of design and craft. It runs until August 12.

Formula to pick councils for tax capping 'unfair'

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE formula used by the Government in its decision to cap 21 local authorities for setting high poll taxes threw up "hopeless distortions" and unfairly branded some councils as profligate, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, representing four of the capped authorities, claimed that the approach adopted by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, was bound to produce anomalies.

Disparities in the figures used to judge whether community charge levels were excessive were highlighted by Mr Henderson, who said the Government had acted unlawfully by capping the councils.

The attack on Mr Patten came on the second day of an application by 19 capped authorities seeking a judicial review of the Government's use of the 1988 Local Finance Act to impose spending cuts.

The councils are asking the High Court to rule that Mr Patten acted unlawfully in ordering them to cut their poll taxes. The National Union of Teachers and two school governors from the London borough of Brent have joined in the action.

Mr Henderson cited the case of Haringey council. He said there was a disparity between the final figures used by Mr Patten in his formula which were "out of kilter by percentages of more than 100

per cent" when it came to assessing the outstanding level of debt for Haringey.

The first "principle" on which Mr Patten had judged an authority's budget excessive - exceeding the Government's Standard Spending Assessment by at least 275 per cent - was not a principle but an arbitrary figure. It was unfair because it favoured authorities which were set low government target spending figures, Mr Henderson said.

He told Lord Justice Leggatt, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Rotherham that capping was a "drastic step" which had serious financial consequences for local authorities and created uncertainty for charge payers.

The 19 councils involved in the action are: Avon, Barnsley, Basildon, Bexley, Bristol, Calderdale, Camden, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Greenwich, Hammersmith, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, North Tyneside, Rochdale, Rotherham, St Helens and Southwark. None are Conservative controlled.

In the case of Rotherham, Mr Henderson said its "modest" budget figures for education spending showed it was hardly a profligate authority. Rotherham had been assessed by the European Community as "a very poor area" which should spend more on education, he said.

The hearing continues today.

New car sales slump as high interest rates bite

By KEVIN EASON, MOTING CORRESPONDENT

CAR sales slumped in May as the Government's attack on borrowing severely damped High Street spending and forced cost-cutting in industry. Figures released yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that heavy discounting and special offers at thousands of showrooms have failed to attract customers into investing in new cars at a time of high interest rates.

The May figures, down 12.7 per cent compared with the same month last year, underline the drop in sales of new cars after a record year for manufacturers in 1989.

Dealers now fear an even fiercer discount war as manufacturers try to rebuild their market share. The SMMT figures show that Ford, Vauxhall, Rover, Peugeot, Talbot, Nissan and Jaguar have lost substantially during this year.

Ford, although still leading with about a quarter of the new car market, has slipped in the first five months of the year to 231,172 from 276,823 in the same period of 1989. Rover sales fell from 139,353 to 130,233, Nissan from 63,974 to 50,323 and Peugeot from 61,855 to 55,217.

Vauxhall sales, mainly through its Cavalier model which now heads the list for the first part of the year, has maintained sales although they, too, are falling - down from 154,197 to 151,987 for a 15 per cent market share.

Japanese importers have had large sales increases in the first five months. Their share of imported cars has risen to 57.04 per cent compared with 55.84 per cent in 1989. Mazda sales are up from 7,776 to 9,543, Mitsubishi from 4,316 to 5,347, and Honda, 9,277 to 13,063.

The rapid fall of sales during May, traditionally regarded as a busy month, could be followed by two severe months. June and July are the quietest period with buyers saving for the new "H" registration plate on August 1. The SMMT is now revising its estimates downwards for the full year sales total while manufacturers face a summer sales war as they attempt to keep production output moving through the dealers.

Private buyers are staying away from showrooms, put off by high prices and interest rates, which remain high throughout the term of the loan. Showrooms have been slashing sticker prices by up to £1,500 but those cuts are severely denting second-hand prices when buyers sell their own cars.

The decline in the company sector is also worrying manufacturers. It accounts for half of all new car sales, especially for luxury models from key manufacturers such as Jaguar, Mercedes and BMW.

Top 10 cars from January to May this year are: 1, Vauxhall Cavalier (66,479); 2, Ford Sierra (60,317); 3, Ford Fiesta (64,759); 4, Ford Escort (62,468); 5, Vauxhall Astra (48,381); 6, Rover Metro (39,823); 7, Rover 200 (32,715); 8, Vauxhall Nova (24,783); 9, VW Golf (22,751); 10, Peugeot 205 (22,646).

Japanese models dominate league for reliability

By OUR MOTING CORRESPONDENT

JAPANESE cars dominate a list of the most reliable cars on British roads published today by the Consumers' Association *Which?* magazine.

Rover wins a high placing in the reliability table with its 213 model, manufactured at Longbridge, Birmingham, designed in collaboration with Honda of Japan and powered by a Honda engine. Ford and Vauxhall, which sell the most cars in Britain, are both regarded as average in the league table of 21 car makers.

The list of manufacturers whose models show better-than-average reliability records is headed by Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Ford for cars made in the past two years. For cars made between 1985 and 1987, the same five are up. They are joined by Subaru and two European manufacturers, Mercedes and Saab.

The magazine, which took reports from 46,000 cars, said that cars from almost every manufacturer were becoming more reliable. "We are still a long way from the point at which cars are so reliable that we can stop worrying and there are still very great differences between good and poor cars."

Mr Michael Ray, Hove Borough Council's chief planning officer, said: "For years we have felt that one fine Regency terrace house should be open to the public, like the George House in Bath. These two young people have done it for a fraction of what it would have cost the council."

Mr Tyson estimates that he needs about £100,000 to ensure his dream is finally realized. "The thought of having to walk away from all we have done and give it up is very frightening," he said yesterday. "It is torture to be so close and not to be able to finish the task."

Last night, Rover said it was wary of the magazine's sample sizes, saying that they could

not reflect the large numbers of cars sold by British manufacturers to millions of satisfied customers. "We sell more than 300,000 cars a year in this country and the total *Which?* sample for Rover's products over eight years was just 1,400 cars," a spokesman said.

"We are very pleased that *Which?* is reporting some success of Rover cars. Our customers tell the whole story, especially increasing numbers of fleet customers who would not buy our cars without the confidence that they were reliable."

The new Ford Fiesta is rated as average as is the Escort. Vauxhall gets a better than average for its Astra/Belmont 1600 series.

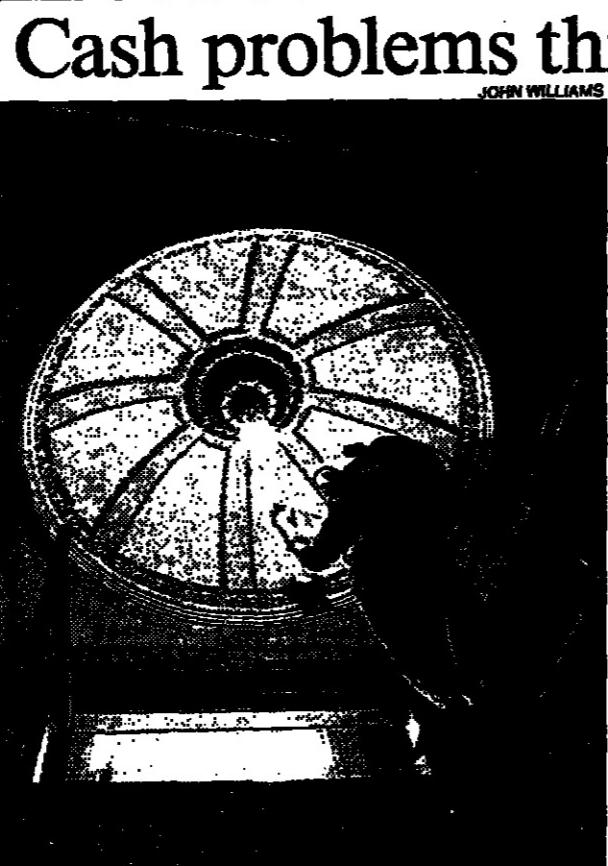
Japanese cars also share most of the honours in the magazine's annual guide to "Best Buys" for 1990. The Toyota Corolla and the Nissan Sunny are both considered best buys in the category for small family models and the Toyota Carina wins the larger family cars section.

There is some good news again for Rover, with the new Land Rover Discovery, tipped as the best buy among four-wheel-drive vehicles. The French-built Peugeot 205 was judged best buy among supermini models.

The most reliable cars made during 1988-89, judged by *Which?*, were: minis and superminis, Peugeot 205 dieci; small family cars, Toyota Corolla, Vauxhall Astra/Belmont, VW Golf/Jetta; larger family cars, Cirrus BX-diesel, Honda Accord, Mazda 626, Nissan Bluebird, Toyota Carina; large cars, Volvo 700,

Cash problems threatening a Regency revival

JOHN WILLIAMS



Work on restoring the dome above the stairway of 13 Brunswick Square, Hove, for public viewing

A SIX-YEAR project to restore a Regency house in Brunswick Square, Hove, to its original early 19th-century appearance and to open it to the public is jeopardized by a lack of funds. Unless the owners can raise about £20,000 to complete the restoration, it may have to be sold and divided once again into flats.

Brunswick Square is widely regarded as a supreme example of Regency townscapes, but after the aristocracy stopped frequenting it, many of the houses fell into disrepair. When Mr Nick Tyson and Miss Margaret Bass moved into the basement of No 13, the property was in danger of collapse and part of it had been condemned as unfit for habitation. However, in the past six years they have acquired the freehold of the property, and, as tenants to the left, have restored rooms to their original appearance.

The work has involved painstaking rebuilding and restoration of cornicing, architraves, door and window casings and shutters. The roof has been re-covered with slate. Mr Tyson has spent some £257,000 on the project but, although he has received some improvement grants from

Hove Borough Council, national bodies have declined to help.

Since, like all the houses in the square, the property is listed Grade One, Mr Tyson could normally have expected a grant of at least 40 per cent from English Heritage. However, because he did not own the house when the restoration began, he was not eligible for a grant in advance, and he has now been told that it is not English Heritage's policy to pay grants retrospectively.

Mr Michael Ray, Hove Borough Council's chief planning officer, said: "For years we have felt that one fine Regency terrace house should be open to the public, like the George House in Bath. These two young people have done it for a fraction of what it would have cost the council."

Mr Tyson estimates that he needs about £100,000 to ensure his dream is finally realized. "The thought of having to walk away from all we have done

Cook in row over 'three million drop' in eye tests

SINCE charges for eye tests by opticians were introduced just over a year ago, the number of tests has fallen by three million, Labour said in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, opening a debate on eye test charges, said that the fall in the number of tests had led to a fall in the number of referrals to specialists and that people's health was being endangered.

One of the priorities of the next Labour Government would be to introduce free eye tests, he said.

During heated exchanges, Mr

Bill would aid tunnel 'victims'

HOUSEHOLDERS who had to suffer all the problems of noise pollution, disturbance and lower property values as a result of big road or rail projects such as the proposed Channel tunnel high-speed link should not also have to wait a year after the project was completed before they could claim compensation, Miss Ann Widdecombe (Maidstone, C) said in the Commons.

Seeking leave under the 10-minute rule to introduce the Injurious Affection (Amendment) Bill, she said that people living in Kent just outside the 240-metre corridor of the tunnel link would not have their properties acquired by compulsory purchase.

They did, however, suffer uncertainty while the scheme was being planned, nuisance during building work and the "monstrous" imposition of having to wait another 12 months before they could claim compensation.

As things were going, it looked likely that the full Channel tunnel link would not be completed before the turn of the century.

The planning and compensation laws needed to be reviewed to see if they were adequate to meet the new phenomenon of the vast new railway construction. Constituents affected by consequent development of freight facilities could not claim any compensation unless there was negligence in the course of construction. If there were simple intensification of use, the Land Compensation Act provided no redress.

The Bill, which proposes that the 12 months' wait should be reduced to three months, was formally read a first time, but has little hope of making further progress.

HEALTH

Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, suggested that the figures had been supplied by the opticians, who had a vested interest.

Mr Cook said that when Mr Clarke had announced the ending of free eye tests 18 months ago he had said that those who claimed it would deter people were crying wolf, and he had denied there would be any deterrent effect. Mr Clarke had agreed how many people would be deterred by a £10 charge.

"We can now answer that question: it is three million."

That figure had come from a number of independent surveys analysed by Professor Peter Hart, professor of statistics at Reading University. In the year ended in April, the number of eye tests was 8.9 million. "We have to go back to 1981 to find a year in which the number of eye tests was that low. Effectively, this Government has wiped out a whole decade of advance in services."

Mr Clarke intervened to point out that Mr Cook was relying on data provided by opticians, who had a vested interest in the replies they gave.

A Mori poll of the public showed no apparent difference in the number of tests carried out.

Mr Cook said that the Secretary of State seemed to be implying that there was a conspiracy on the part of all those who had taken part in the survey and by the professor who had analysed them.

It was typical of the Government to act with the problem that it should have gone to a medical research organization rather than the opticians. But it was an established fact that such polls resulted in over-reporting. If the poll was to be believed, 15.25 million people had had eye tests.

"If that was correct, the only problem the profession would have had in the past year would have been how to get these people to form orderly queues at their doors."

Mr Clarke said that Mr Cook's proposition was based "on the absurd argument that so long as you only survey the opticians you can show there is a drop. But every time you survey the public, you show there has been no drop in eye tests at all."

Mr Cook accused Mr Clarke of casting a slur on a scientific profession by saying opticians were conspiring to conceal an increase and to deceive the House.

Mr Clarke asked if the only source of opinion to be relied on was that of a professional vested interest.

Mr Cook said that was a "breathtaking slur". Would he accept an independent audit of the books of opticians? "He will

not ask the optometrists how many they are treating because he dare not ask them."

Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) said that if ophthalmic opticians and medical practitioners were faking their books, it was a matter for the Inland Revenue.

Mr Cook agreed. He challenged Mr Clarke to repeat his allegations outside the cloak of parliamentary privilege.

Mr Clarke described Mr Cook's case as "a palpable myth" based on an inadequate and narrow survey.

Mr Cook said that the reduction of three million eye tests would mean a 160,000 fall in the number of referrals for medical examination. "These are the people with distinctive symptoms who are not being assessed, members of the public who are unaware that their sight and maybe their health is at risk." These would include 26,000 cases of cataract, 25,000 of glaucoma, 11,000 of hypertension and 13,000 of diabetes.

Mr Clarke had been dramatically wrong in his predictions. The introduction of the market had increased prices and reduced productivity and choice because 250 branches of independent optometrists had closed.

Competition had resulted in higher prices, a reduction in the number treated and a reduction in the number of places to be treated.

Mr Clarke said that the Government continued to pay for the eye test for a third of the population, including those on low incomes, young children and people susceptible to particular diseases.

Opticians preferred the system they had before. They could put up notices: "NHS Eye Test: Free for All". This was perfectly proper to get people to come inside and buy spectacles. The NHS provided them with a guaranteed income. The change meant that each optician had to decide whether to charge and to what extent. Some firms had decided not to do so.

He acknowledged the importance of eye tests in preventive medicine and that it had led to the discovery of some diseases. But what people were being asked to pay was only £10 or £11 once every two years for an important part of their health care. Genuine competition would be more widespread if the Labour Party stopped supporting the free eye test campaign. Opticians were reluctant to allow a free market to break out when they thought they might get back to where they were before.

Labour, short on health policy, was giving way to commercial lobbying.

The cost of restoring the free eye tests would be £90 million, more than the budget of a reasonable-size health authority.

Answering a question about the criteria for appointments to health boards in Scotland, Mr

Ashdown's housing cash plan

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats would phase out mortgage tax relief and institute housing allowances applying both to those buying and to those renting their homes. Mr Paddy Ashdown said yesterday. The Liberal Democrat leader said that the action would come after a merger of the tax and social security systems.

Mr Ashdown was introducing a report on homelessness. *Seen but not Heard*, produced for his party by a group of housing experts, it is to form the basis of discussions on formulating a policy for the homeless.

The report says that mortgage interest tax relief to home owners last year cost £6,750 million, with higher rate taxpayers receiving on average more than £2,000 towards their housing costs from public funds. It urges, in the long term, the institution of a new system of housing subsidy, called housing cost relief, which would apply both to home owners and to those who rent. Existing mortgage holders would not be affected unless they chose to opt into the new system.

The authors, Bruce Douglas-Mann, chairman of Shelter, Wendy Chapple, a London borough housing officer, Mark Hayes, an architect, and Chris Price, a



Scheme travel warrants to those prepared to travel to train and by reflecting liability for mortgage interest payments in family credit. It calls for an increase in hostel accommodation.

In the medium term, the report urges preservation of the leasing system being abolished under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, expansion of the lodging system and the provision of a duty on neighbouring local authorities to provide for others with greater housing needs.

It says that portable discounts along the lines of the right to buy should be considered for local authority tenants who want to buy in the private sector, so leaving public housing stock available. It also calls for capital receipts from the sale of council houses to be released for the provision of new housing.

Mr Ashdown said that there were 80,000 people defined as homeless in statutory terms in London alone and the number had increased by 20,000 in a year.

Management consultant, say that renting is at present uneconomic for landlords and for anyone who can afford to buy.

In the short term, the report says that

homelessness can be countered by paying income support in advance instead of in arrears, by restoring income support for the under-25s, by providing Youth Training

Parliament 'must not decline into an EC parish council'

HOUSE OF LORDS

LABOUR would not want to see Parliament become a parish council within the EC. Lord Clewens of Pearkes, leader of the Opposition peers, said in the Lords during a debate on European political and monetary union.

He told peers that he wanted the EC to be democratic and Britain to be a part of it. "But I do not want this Parliament to be dismantled or converted into a parish council."

The debate, he said, was fundamentally about sovereignty and about how much more power the Government proposed to give to the Community. "We shall need to know its extent and in which authority or authorities it will be invested. Our chief concern is its accountability."

He said that Parliament and the people wanted to know much more about the Government's policy on these crucial issues.

There were differences in the Government and in the Cabinet. But the Opposition was entitled to expect at some stage a clear foreign policy, pursued with consistency, rather than to have the Government scrambling to debate events set in train by others.

The Opposition understood the Government's difficulties over joining the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. He agreed

that joining would not cure Britain's economic problems overnight, but in the longer term it could provide her with the kind of stability and the terms of investment and steady growth that the country so badly needed.

If the road to economic union was strewn with difficulties, they were not insuperable. But the way to political union was far harder to negotiate.

Opening the debate, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, said that there were some signs of improvement in the Government's European posture and that Labour administrations had also been guilty of misjudgement on the issue. But why had the Government persistently and dangerously marched out of step with the rest of Europe?

The explanation for the remarkable consistency in attitude of governments of both parties lay more in misunderstanding than a lack of British goodwill towards the Community, although the result had been unfortunate.

There was, for instance, an exaggerated and unnecessary fear of a "formal and flattening federalism" which would make Europe an analogue of the

United States, with Britain merely the equivalent of a Pennsylvania or Illinois within it. He did not believe that would happen.

Instead there was the continental intellectual tradition to think more in general declarations of intent and direction, while the British were more inclined towards "judging one's way forward, determining each step only after the previous ones has been taken".

The test of European statesmanship, and the only way to be an effective European leader, was to be able to reconcile. Sometimes there was a logical gap between the end and the means of a ringing European declaration and it was sensible to profit from the vagueness, making oneself central in playing an important role in shaping the modality.

Lord Brahman of Tara, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that the Government was taking an active role in seeking to define the future development of the Community. The United Kingdom wanted a strong Community but wished to maintain its national traditions and distinctive way of life. He was not talking of cultural and social things such as cricket and pints of beer, or Shakespeare, but also political traditions and the maintenance of strong political institutions.

'Freedom of speech' inquiry

UNIVERSITIES

INTERESTED parties are to be consulted by the Scottish Office about arrangements for safeguarding freedom of speech in universities and colleges in Scotland and would then consider whether any action was needed.

Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, said during question time.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition chief spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that he regretted that there appeared to have been a shift in the Government's position since a Scottish Office minister had said that there was little evidence in Scotland of the problems that had led to the action taken to deal with interference with free speech on campuses in England. There had been one deplorable incident at Glasgow recently, but that had been very much a case of rent-a-crowd.

Mr Lang said that it was because the position was different that the Scottish Office had not followed English colleagues in their action.

Freedom of speech was vitally important if a university was to be the light of liberty and learning and it could not be that unless freedom of speech was upheld.



Health board 'is incompetent'

Rifkind said that individuals were appointed on the basis of the contribution they could make to the duties and responsibilities of the board.

Mr Samuel Galbraith described the situation as a shambles and said that ultimate responsibility rested with Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland. All the board members were appointed directly by Mr Rifkind and half of them were either directly or indirectly connected with the Conservative Party.

"Unless an increase in funding is made available to the board, the crisis will only be resolved by the Secretary of State renegeing on his promises, closing hospitals and introducing other measures that will directly affect patient care."

Mr Rifkind said that the Government had been helpful with regard to the problems of the Lothian board by indicating that the board would not be required this year to pay for the overspend last year. But it was crucially important that the board should gain control over its expenditure and resources.

All health boards in Scotland were funded in the same way, and if the Lothian Region were the only one with financial difficulties that must result from mismanagement within the board itself.

Mr Rifkind said that they were properly funded.

Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Lib Dem) asked for an assurance that appointments were more business oriented, the Secretary of State would pay attention to the successor boards and see that they were properly funded.

Mr Rifkind said that he wished to ensure that there was the widest possible breadth of experience, consistent only with there being no conflict of interest between those who served on the health boards and those with financial associations with the provision of health care.

Rifkind is still trying to get information

RAVENS CRAIG

MR MALCOLM Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, is still trying to get information from British Steel about its plans to close the Ravenscraig hot strip mill at Motherwell, but at a question time he rejected a suggestion that he should use the Government's golden share to intervene at the company's annual meeting next month.

He said that he has suggested in a letter to Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, that he should meet the workforce representatives to explain his thinking and hear their constructive suggestions of how they can make a vital contribution to the welfare of British Steel.

Mr Rifkind had called on British Steel to explain and defend its position on proposals for the strip mill.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition chief spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that it was not encouraging to hear the minister talking of hoping that he would get some information from British Steel.

"Is he getting co-operation on the arguments, facts and figures?" Has Sir Robert Scholey indicated that he will discuss his case openly and frankly with the workforce and the Government? What steps will the minister take if co-operation is not forthcoming? If the information comes forward, will he test the assumptions behind the decision, perhaps with the help of independent advice?"

Mr Rifkind said that he understood Mr Dewar's need to make those remarks, but Labour's position was in all practical respects the same as that of the Government. Labour had ruled out renationalisation, thus saying with all others, that the decision was for British Steel.

Flashing lights for school buses

TRANSPORT

fact that children are about and might be crossing the road.

"Motorists should exercise extra caution every time they overtake a stationary bus displaying the sign, whether or not it is equipped with the additional flashing lights."

He hoped that this, taken with other recently announced measures in a wide programme of steps to promote safety on the roads, would help to bring about the reduction in child road deaths that everyone wished to see.

The draft regulations have been issued to interested parties, whose views have been invited by August 31. The sign proposed for school buses will be the international sign showing a silhouette of two children.

Savings schemes to be updated

New ways of saving are to be introduced soon to encourage long-term savings in the wake of the Budget announcement of a 1 per cent increase in National Savings interest rates.

Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary, Treasury, said in a written reply that there would be a new fixed-interest savings certificate offering a tax-free guaranteed return of 9.5 per cent a year if held for five years; a similar improvement in the year plan; a new index-linked savings certificate revalued monthly by reference to the retail price index and offering a tax-free guaranteed interest of 4.5 per cent a year if held for five years; and a new series of capital bond offering a guaranteed return of 13 per cent a year, taxable, but credited without prior deduction of income tax, if held for five years.

Visa rules changed

Citizens from Argentina and East Germany will no longer need visas to visit Britain. Sir Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written

proposal for an outside interest to acquire more than 15 per cent of the shareholding of British Steel. That was made clear by the prospectus.

Mr Richard Holt (Langstrath, C) reminded him that he was talking about British Steel. There would be considerable resentment if Mr Rifkind sought to influence British Steel in making a commercial decision simply because of the volume of voices from Scottish Labour MPs.

Mr Rifkind replied that the Government had called on British Steel to explain and defend its position on proposals for the strip mill.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition chief spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that it was not encouraging to hear the minister talking of hoping that he would get some information from British Steel.

"Is he getting co-operation on the arguments, facts and figures?" Has Sir Robert Scholey indicated that he will discuss his case openly and frankly with the workforce and the Government? What steps will the minister take if co-operation is not forthcoming? If the information comes forward, will he test the assumptions behind the decision, perhaps with the help of independent advice?"</p

Czechs question former leaders

From Peter Green
in Prague

MR MILOS Jakes and four other hardline former leaders in Czechoslovakia were detained yesterday before the country's first free parliamentary elections in 44 years, for plotting to overturn the results. Mr Jakes and four other Czechoslovakians sought to overturn the 1989 Prague Spring, which was instigated by Vaclav Havel and all agreed by Vaclav Havel, the Communist Party chief, to end his rule.

Mr Andrej Sapko, Minister of Internal Affairs, said he had been detained at the request of Vaclav Havel, the President.

Such swaps were ruled out by Brazil under Senator Jose Sarney, the former President, who denounced an international campaign to take over Brazil's Amazon, and was supported by General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, his Army Minister, who said: "We won't allow any pussy-footing into the Amazon."

Brazil offer to save forests in return for debts deal

From Louise Byrne in Rio de Janeiro

IN A significant change of policy, the Brazilian Government has said it is prepared to consider conversion of its foreign debt in return for greater environmental protection efforts.

BRUSSELS: Europe's cities are being destroyed by pollution, traffic congestion and the loss of their urban motorways would only add to the crisis, the Community's Environment Commissioner said yesterday (Michael Binion writes).

Unveiling a green paper on possible EC directives to save Europe's cities, Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana said traffic in cities such as London was now a "nightmare". But more roads would only suck in more traffic. Instead he urged British ministers, and those in other EC states, to look at better public transport and toll systems limiting access to city centres for private motorists.

His comments came on the eve of an important environmental council in Luxembourg, where Britain will come under strong pressure to speed up its planned reduction of pollutants and greenhouse gases.

Signor Ripa di Meana put forward a broad urban action plan for public discussion in the months leading up to a conference in London next March, when Brussels will publish its proposals for drastic laws to curb traffic pollution and waste.

Among the paper's suggestions are energy conservation measures, the recycling of urban waste, better town planning with EC-wide minimum standards, plans for open spaces in cities, road pricing systems and large-scale improvements in public transport.

He said traffic was one of the most dramatic problems facing Europe. There were more than 120 million cars on EC roads, 379 cars for every 1,000 inhabitants. This figure was set to increase by 35 per cent over the next 20 years.

Cars were responsible for 90 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions in urban areas. Dangerous pollution levels were regularly exceeded in cities such as Milan and Athens.

"The city as motorway has failed," Signor Ripa di Meana said. "The solution cannot be to increase the capacity of motorways." He said a cut in emission standards and the introduction of electric cars was not enough and he recommended toll systems limiting city access such as those in Oslo and Singapore.

Doctor's role in suicide attacked

From Susan ELLICOTT in New York

AMERICAN doctors and lawyers tussled yesterday over the ethics of a retired pathologist's role this week in the suicide of a woman with Alzheimer's disease. Dr Jack Kevorkian, an advocate of euthanasia who has often clashed with orthodox medical opinion, connected Mrs Janet Adkins, aged 54, to a home-made machine dispensing a lethal intravenous solution.

Many medical experts think the suicide, which Dr Kevorkian violated the American Medical Association code of ethics which allows its members to halt or reduce treatment of terminally ill patients but not actively to help people end their lives.

Dr Kevorkian said he realized he risked arrest for his decision but he did not commit murder because Mrs Adkins herself pushed a button which released a combination of lethal drugs into her arm. He dripped a harmless saline solution into her arm for about a minute until Mrs Adkins pressed the button which switched to thiopental and then potassium chloride. The first chemical induced unconsciousness and the second stopped the patient's heart within six minutes. Moments before she died, Dr Kevorkian said, Mrs Adkins turned toward him and thanked him several times.

Mrs Adkins visited Dr Kevorkian last weekend with her husband and her best friend from Portland, Oregon, where state laws governing assisted suicides are tighter than Michigan's. Mr Adkins said he supported his wife's decision, although her three grown sons did not. No family members witnessed her death.

Mr Adkins, a former English teacher who was diagnosed as having the disabling disease last year, saw one of the newspaper articles and sought the doctor's help rather than suffer further memory lapses that had disrupted her playing of the piano and reading. Alzheimer's is incurable and affects as many as one in 60 people, causing degenerative damage to the brain and lapses of memory.

The retired doctor, aged 62, set up his suicide device on Monday in his rusty 1968 Volkswagen van in a suburb 40 miles north of Detroit after owners

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OVERSEAS NEWS 9



An armed anti-terrorism squad of the Italian finance police, who will be deployed with the carabinieri and the national guard to prevent disorder during the football World Cup starting this week, conducting an airborne exercise on a beach near Pomezia, south of Rome

Trump caught out cashing in on a few cents

From SUSAN ELLICOTT in New York

JUST as Mr Donald Trump is reeling from a class-action lawsuit by investors suffering from a downturn in his fortune, along comes New York's satirical *Spy Magazine* with a wizard wheeze and names him one of America's top skintards.

Things must be pretty rough for the flamboyant real-estate developer, concludes the monthly famous for its pranks on society's rich and famous, because The Donald recently cashed a

cheque for 13 cents (7.5p). In fact, *Spy* says, Mr. Trump and Mr. Adnan Khashoggi, the millionaire currently on trial in Manhattan with Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady of the Philippines, were the only two of 58 "well-known, well-heeled Americans" who cashed in cheques for the tiny amount sent to their home addresses in a "sting" operation.

The magazine's July issue describes its reporting methods for a cover story entitled "Who is America's cheapest millionaire?" as a "mortifying experience in comparative chintziness".

Musing about whether truly rich people check the coin slot of public telephones for forgotten coins or hunt down special offers in supermarkets,

Spy formed a company, the National Refund Clearinghouse, and opened a checking account. It then sent out checks for \$1.11 to 58 famous names with a covering letter explaining the firm was correcting an over-charging error detected in its computer records.

To the undisguised glee of the magazine's accountancy correspondent, 26 of the famous names, including Mr. Trump, Mr. Khashoggi, Cher, and Michael Douglas and Mr. Rupert Murdoch, took the time to read the letter and cashed their cheques.

Spy then sent out second cheques for 6 cents (barely 40p) to compensate for a second alleged computer error. Thirteen people cashed them, including Mr. Trump, Mr. Khashoggi, Cher, Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Harry Helmsley, Mike Nichols and John Kluge. Finally, *Spy* sent out a cheque for 13 cents. Mr. Khashoggi and Mr. Trump were the only two figures to sign their cheque.

Miss Teo was among those arrested nearly two years ago when Singapore cracked down on Roman Catholic activists and others for alleged involvement in liberation theology and pro-communist activities. The arrests raised an international storm, which Singapore ignored.

Miss Teo was not tried; the law does not require a trial.

Along with most of the other activists, she was released within months of detention, but she was re-arrested when she continued to inveigh against her detention and insist that she was not pro-communist.

The government statement

at the weekend did not indicate whether she would be allowed to return to her law practice.

Some dissident lawyers have been allowed to do so after a period in local government jobs. Her family has declined to comment.

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Curbs on released Singapore lawyer

From M.G.G. Pillai
IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE Singapore Government has released Miss Teo Soo Lung, aged 32, a dissident lawyer, from preventive detention, but under conditions that make it impossible for her to return to normal life.

Miss Teo cannot leave Singapore, address public gatherings, issue statements, or join any organization without permission. She cannot be interviewed either. In Malaysia and Singapore, which have similar preventive detention laws, released detainees can be subject to such restrictions for five years or more.

Some Singaporean detainees have spent years in exile on one of Singapore's smaller islands. The restrictions are lifted only when the authorities are satisfied that they have "reformed".

Miss Teo was among those arrested nearly two years ago when Singapore cracked down on Roman Catholic activists and others for alleged involvement in liberation theology and pro-communist activities. The arrests raised an international storm, which Singapore ignored.

Miss Teo was not tried; the law does not require a trial.

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Policy shift in Ethiopia opens way to peace talks

From REUTER IN ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian Government, its Army locked in fierce fighting with Eritrean rebels, has signalled a key policy shift which could open the way to full-scale peace talks on ending Africa's longest civil war.

The Government of President Mengistu said in a statement that it would allow the United Nations to act as observer to peace negotiations with the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

"This is an enormous breakthrough. It is extremely important in unblocking the current logjam and getting the talks going," one Western diplomat said.

After exploratory talks last year the front, which is fighting for independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea, said it would not attend further talks on ending the 28-year war unless the United Nations agreed to send observers. The peace process, chaired by the former US President, Mr Jimmy Carter,

Bus attack kills 18 in Karachi

Karachi - Gunmen shot dead 18 people in Karachi yesterday shortly before the start of talks to end Mohajir-Sindhi violence which has claimed more than 170 lives in two weeks (Zahid Hussain writes).

The attack, on a bus carrying workers to a cement factory, was the worst in the Sind provincial capital for several days.

School raided

Paris - Vandals broke into a high school in Gien, 75 miles south of Paris, and painted swastikas on the walls and left behind blood-soaked human bones. The raid was reminiscent of a wave of recent neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic vandalism across France. (AP)

Drug testing

Sydney - Esso Australia said it will introduce random drug and alcohol tests for workers in July, prompted by the Exxon Valdez accident in Alaska and a US corporate trend. (Reuter)

Tamil victory

Colombo - The Sri Lankan Government, granting a demand from the Tamil Tigers, said it would dissolve the provincial council in the Tamil-dominated North-East and organize fresh elections. (Reuter)

Embassy opens

Paris - France will reopen its embassy in Afghanistan next week, more than a year after most foreign missions in Kabul were closed, because security has improved. (Reuter)

King improves

Oslo - King Olav of Norway, at 80 the world's oldest head of state, was reported to be improving in hospital after suffering a stroke and pneumonia. (Reuter)

Amazon crash

Sao Paulo - An aircraft with 43 passengers on board crashed in the Amazon region of Brazil, killing 16 people. (Reuter)

Britain gets tough on African aid

By MICHAEL KNIFE AND ANDREW MC EWEN

A VILED warning to African governments to introduce more democracy, increase public accountability and pay greater respect to market principles if they wished to receive foreign aid, was issued yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

With the increased competition for aid, donors were now less likely to ignore its relative effectiveness, said Mr Hurd. It had to go where it could do most good. Too many of Africa's resources had been dissipated by war, bad management and corruption, he added.

This new British hard line on aid was also emphasized in a sharp attack yesterday by Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, on the management of UN development agencies. In a speech in Geneva she said there was "troubling and rising dissatisfaction" with their work. She also told *The Times* that her aim was to bring about immediate management improvement in the United Nations Development



SIKHS protesting in London

yesterday outside the Indian High Commission on the sixth anniversary of Operation Blue Star, when the Indian authorities stormed the Golden Temple at Amritsar in Punjab to drive out separatist militants and 1,000 people died.

Indian police yesterday sealed off the temple and detained 400 Sikhs in an attempt to thwart protests (Our Foreign Staff writes). Police said they took youth leaders and politicians, including Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, an MP, into preventive detention. More than 2,000 police and para-military troops, many armed with automatic weapons, stopped all vehicles of entrances to the city, near the Pakistani border.

The Eritrean front has claimed major victories over government forces, who lost the key Red Sea port of Massawa in February and whose only link between Asmara and Addis Ababa is by air.

"I think this new position has come about because of the military situation as much as because of external pressure," a Western diplomat said.

The Soviet Union, for years Ethiopia's main military supplier, has reportedly been pressuring President Mengistu to negotiate an end to wars both with the Eritrean front and with another rebel group in the north, the Tigre People's Liberation Front.

The Eritrean front which called last month for a UN-sponsored referendum to decide the future of Eritrea, was dismissive of the Government's new stance, saying it had come too late.

"I do not think we are interested in this. We cannot play hide-and-seek with them any more," a front spokesman in London said.

This new statement is not a change of heart. It is just more manoeuvring, delaying tactics," he said, but declined to say if the Eritreans would actually refuse to attend fresh talks.

The capture of Massawa was a big blow to President Mengistu. At stroke, it cut off the main route for food aid for up to 4.5 million people facing starvation — half of whom are believed to be in Eritrea.

International aid agencies fear that, if the fighting around Asmara intensifies, relief efforts will be further disrupted and a catastrophic famine matching that of 1984-1985 may result.

"Whether there is a major famine depends on two factors — war and rain. If there is peace, there is no real threat," said Mr Chris Mason, of the British-based charity, Oxfam.

In Tuesday's statement, the Government also agreed to allow the use of Massawa to bring in food supplies for famine victims.

Diplomats said that it left open the possibility of the port coming under interim UN control.

Rebels poised to take Monrovia

By LIBBY JUKES

REBEL forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia were preparing yesterday for a final assault on Monrovia after taking control of Firestone Plantation, the world's biggest rubber plantation, and the main towns near Robertsfield, Liberia's only international airport.

US Embassy personnel confirmed that the rebels had captured the towns of Harbel and Owens Grove and would probably consolidate these gains before moving against Monrovia. The rebels are now thought to control Roberts-

field, 35 miles east of the capital. One US official said that the mood in Monrovia was apprehensive, with shops virtually empty of provisions, most schools closed, and people staying at work for only a couple of hours each day.

Members of the Krahn and Mandingo tribes, from which President Doe of Liberia draws support, fear reprisal killings if the mainly Gio and Mano rebels enter the capital. Many have escaped to the north-eastern Grand Gedeh region.

However, there are no im-

mediate plans to send in the US Marines, who are standing by in a six-ship task force off the Liberian coast, because expatriates are not believed to be in imminent danger, the US information ministry had announced on Tuesday night that Mr Johnson died during renewed fighting in Grand Gedeh county.

The rebels are under strict instructions from Mr Charles Taylor, the rebels' leader, to avoid damaging foreign property. He wants to convince Western businessmen that their interests would not be jeopardized by a National Patriotic Front government.

"I just happen to be a die-hard, cold-blooded capitalist, and I'm proud of it," he told reporters yesterday.

Natal test for de Klerk reforms

From GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Government faced the first electoral test of its reform policies yesterday in a parliamentary by-election regarded as a barometer of white opinion on the dismantling of apartheid.

The poll in the Natal constituency of Umlazi is the first since President de Klerk launched his reform initiatives last September and began peace talks with the African National Congress a few months later.

The conventional wisdom is that the ruling National Party will retain the seat with a reduced majority. Analysts believe the Nationalists have been losing support to the Conservatives, but gaining the confidence of the liberal Democrats, which may presage a close result.

Mr Con Botha, who was recently appointed Administrator of Natal, held the Umlazi seat in last September's general election with a majority of 2,835. Despite substantial gains in other provinces, however, the Conservatives failed to win a seat in the largely English-speaking Natal.

• Police raid: The ANC protested over police raids on two houses belonging to Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, in Soweto at dawn yesterday.

Police said that they were searching for a murder suspect who was not connected with the Mandela family, and that people looking after the properties co-operated "in a good spirit". The suspect was not found.

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Natal
test for
de Klerk
reforms

From GENEVA
THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT has accepted
a proposal by the International
Commission of Conciliation
and Arbitration to set up a
commission of inquiry into
the killing of anti-apartheid
activist Steve Biko.

Setback for UK-Iran hopes as Rushdie threat is reaffirmed

By HAZIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran yesterday restated his wish for a resumption of diplomatic relations with Britain, but appeared to immediately quash the possibility by saying that the death sentence passed on Salman Rushdie, the novelist — the main cause of the rift between the two countries last year — would remain in force.

Addressing foreign and Iranian reporters in Tehran, after a week of mourning to mark the first anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic state who pronounced the *fatwa* on Mr Rushdie, he said that, in principle, Iran had no difficulty in restoring relations with Britain, and that both countries desired a normalization of ties.

"If Mrs Thatcher condemns Rushdie's novel", he added, "there will remain no problem on the way of a resumption of ties, but we have no right to withdraw the late imam's *fatwa*. It stays as it is".

The Foreign Office in London had no immediate comment on the statement, but President Rafsanjani's remarks are bound to strengthen the impression abroad that he remains vulnerable to pressure from Islamic extremists on the fringes of his Government. These include Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the nominal leader of the state, who called on Britain on Tuesday to hand Mr Rushdie over to British Muslims "so that the verdict of God might be carried out on him".

An observer of Iranian poli-

tics said yesterday: "Rafsanjani has struck upon the stratagem that the Rushdie affair is a religious quarrel between all the world's Muslims, on the one hand, and an offending individual on the other. This assumes that Khomeini's order to kill a British subject on British soil does not amount to international terrorism, which it clearly does, and when Britain protects its subject from potential assassins, Iran interprets it as an act of enmity towards Islam as a religion."

The observer said that even a formal announcement by the Iranian Government that it was no longer pursuing the death of Mr Rushdie would not necessarily remove the threat to the author's life.

"A number of quasi-governmental organizations, such as the Foundation for the Deprived in Tehran, have announced rewards amounting to several million pounds for a successful assassination of Rushdie," the observer said. "These would have to be lifted, too. But the organizations are in the control of Rafsanjani's critics."

The news conference in Tehran was manipulated by Mr Rafsanjani's aides, who tried to spare him questions about Mr Rushdie and the Western hostages in Lebanon. But when pressed on the issue of the captives, he blamed the United States for failing to press for the release of Muslims held by Israel and Iranians seized by Lebanese Christians.

"The way is now open for

the United States to act, if they want to solve the hostage problem," the Iranian leader said. "We expected a favourable reply. I can say we did not get one."

He devoted the bulk of the session to his readiness to meet President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to conclude a peace agreement between the two countries.

"We have not given a negative reply to Iraq's proposal calling for a meeting of the two heads of state," President Rafsanjani said.

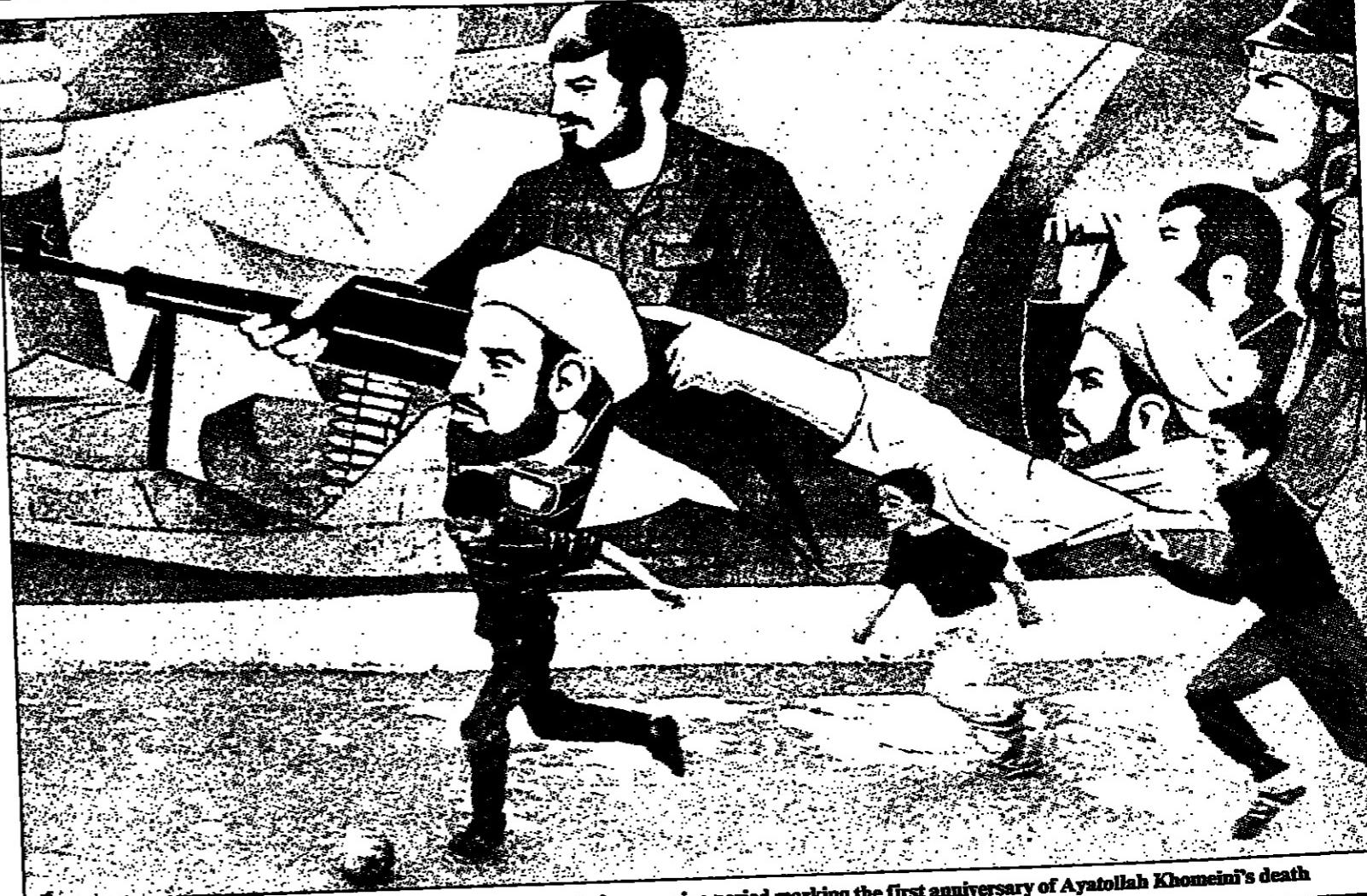
"But issues must be sorted out in preliminary negotiations at expert level and in consultations with the United Nations Secretary-General to guarantee the success of such a meeting, if there is going to be one."

But he added that the declaration of the recent Arab summit in Baghdad that Iraq had full sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf had "shaken Iran's confidence" in the Iraqi leader's intentions.

Sovereignty of the waterway remains the main stumbling block to talks which have been stalemated since 1988. A 15-year-old international treaty gives the countries joint sovereignty over the waterway.

President Rafsanjani said he had turned down an offer by Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, to mediate between Iran and Iraq. Mr Arafat's letter had come with one from President Saddam, and emphasized the issues raised by Iraq, he said.

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Children playing in Tehran again yesterday after the end of a mourning period marking the first anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's death

Students set free in China

From CATHERINE SAMSON IN PEKING

CHINESE authorities yesterday released 97 people imprisoned for their involvement in last year's student-led demonstrations, including two students originally on the list of 21 most wanted dissidents. These are the first publicized releases of anyone on that list.

The official Xinhua news agency referred to all 97 as "lawbreakers", and said they had "pleaded guilty and voluntarily confessed their wrongdoings and expressed a willingness to repent". The agency described their release as an act of government leniency. It did not explain why they had been held for 11 months without trial.

Some of those released had voluntarily surrendered to the authorities, the agency said.

One of the two students from the most wanted list is Xiong Wei, aged 25, an electronics student from Qinghua University, who was persuaded by his mother to surrender. Zhou Fengsuo, aged 24, a physics student also from Qinghua University, had been informed on by his sister.

Since last June the Government has encouraged people to inform on family members. But ordinary Chinese say the number of such informants has dropped because of widespread sympathy for pro-democracy demonstrators. Reflecting this, only a third of the 21 on the original most wanted list were ever arrested by police.

About 784 people were freed in January and May, suggesting that police investigations are now nearing an end, and that those who are being blamed for the "counter-revolutionary rebellion" will soon go on trial.

Meanwhile, three dissidents who disappeared last Thursday, just before they were due to give a press conference calling for the release of all political prisoners, have still not reappeared.

• HONG KONG: Chinese officials complained to the British Government after a shot was fired into the window of a building belonging to the New China News Agency (Jonathan Braude writes). The agency houses Peking's de facto consulate in Hong Kong.

Stopgap Kaifu rides wave of popularity

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

MR TOSHIKI Kaifu, who had greatest thrust on him last autumn when he was given the job of Japanese Prime Minister, for want of anyone more suitable, has become something of a political rags-to-riches story. An opinion poll by the Kyodo news agency shows him to be the most popular leader since it began such surveys in 1964.

Some analysis suggest that Mr Kaifu, forced by his weak domestic power base to look for friends abroad, is reaping the rewards of having injected a more international flavour into Japan's stuffy politics. Mr Kaifu barely seems to have enough time to unpack his suitcases before heading off somewhere else. He has toured Europe and Asia and made the obligatory (for Japanese Prime Ministers) pilgrimage to the United States.

His approach happened to coincide with a new wave of thinking among Foreign Ministry bureaucrats, who decided the time had come for Japan to play a bigger role on the world stage. Japan's move to host Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo this week — its debut as an international peace-broker — signalled its desire to have a say in developments in Asia.

America call to encourage

more cheap US imports.

Sweet words from President

Bush about what a good job

Mr Kaifu's bold leadership

was doing to strengthen Ja-

npan-America ties helped

Prime Minister's popularity.

Mr Kaifu appears to be

scandal-free — a rarity in

Japanese politics — and he is

an energetic drum beater. He speaks well — a relief after Mr Noboru Takeshita, whose vague delivery is said to have baffled even close advisers.

Another reason for Mr Kaifu's popularity was revealed in yesterday's Kyodo poll. Although 63 per cent of respondents said they approved of his performance, 31.9 per cent said they did so only because "there is no one else". Most of the LDP's leaders are still recovering from their involvement in the Recruit bribery scandal.

The poll's results are awk-

ward for the party elders, who had not expected Mr Kaifu to last so long. He is even more popular than Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, who was probably Japan's best-known Prime Minister abroad until Mr Takeshita and Mr Sosuke Uno, who was involved in a geisha scandal, managed to make their names familiar to the world last year.

While the LDP's elders will let Mr Kaifu rule for the time being, they are fighting over his successor already. They also know that, however popular he may be abroad and whatever voters tell pollsters, the public has little say in picking Prime Ministers.

Refugees make for Australia

From ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA is preparing for a new wave of Asian boat people for the first time in 10 years — Cambodian refugees who are risking longer and more hazardous sea voyages to escape renewed fighting in their country.

Officials said yesterday they believed Australia was now the most attractive destination for Cambodian refugees who wanted to avoid detention in Indonesia's chronically over-crowded camps. As the annual "sailing season" for the boat people gets under way, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra said that boatloads of Cambodians have already made journeys of some 2,000 miles to get here.

A ministry spokesman denied reports that Indonesia was turning back refugee boats and forcing them to continue on to Australia after Mr Neal Blewett, Australia's acting Foreign Minister, had an emergency meeting with the Indonesian Foreign Minister in Jakarta. Mr Blewett said yesterday: "Both Indonesia and Australia have a common interest in reducing incentives for boat people to leave Cambodia. The best way of doing that is achieving a peace settlement in Cambodia."

On Indonesia's Galang island, just south of Singapore, facilities are at breaking point, with about 1,500 Cambodians having joined 13,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Australian immigration officials suspect dealers are selling passes to Australia for up to \$Aus 2,000 (£900). Cambodian boat people reaching Australian waters are held in a camp 25 miles south of Darwin in the Northern Territory. There they live in army camps surrounded by barbed wire while the Government considers whether or not to accept them.

The Darwin camp has reached its capacity. An immigration official said: "It is an emergency camp. We'll be moving them."

Meanwhile, Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, yesterday announced provisions for Chinese students to stay on in Australia after the crackdown on pro-democracy supporters in China.



The go-between: Mr Kaifu, right, greeting Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian resistance, in Tokyo yesterday after hosting talks with Phnom Penh

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

Fate of British beef feeds Japanese pride

In Japan, where cattle are fed on oats and beer and are massaged by their owners, there has been a bout of "I told you so" sneering at the fate of the British and their mad cows. Japanese television crews have descended on "the beef-loving British" and those of us who thought we had as much chance of seeing Mr Gummer on our Tokyo TV screens as hearing Dan Maskell comment on the sumo have suddenly become acquainted with our Agriculture Minister and his daughter.

The Japanese seem to pity the poor British, who have to eat unpampered cows, and feel this confirms the superiority of Japanese beef and the silliness of US pressure for Japan to buy meat from abroad. The Japanese have long argued that their uniqueness prevented them from importing everything from beef (not digestible for Japanese intestines) to French skis (do not grip on Japan's unique snow).

Now that they have been forced by Washington's trade bullies to allow American beef into Japanese kitchens, Japanese meat companies have begun buying up cattle ranches in the US and Australia to ensure that Japan imports beef raised the Japanese way and, of course, that

Japanese companies keep their profits.

But massaging and cosseting do not come cheap. From Matsuzaka cows, finely marbled with fat, like a very small-scale but detailed road map, and sells for 7,000 yen per 100 grams, or £120 a pound. Cheap steaks will settle for slightly lesser quality can get by for half that.

Japanese have always taken their food seriously: a feast for the palette, eyes as well as for the palette,

they like to say, although a few strips of raw tuna lounging on a twig of cherry blossom does not always adequately feast Western stomachs.

Now, splashing out at Western restaurants is the latest fad for rich Japanese who have run out of wrist space for Rolexes. The extravagant ones go on pricy gourmet tours of Europe, but they are beginning to bristle at the two-faced welcome they have been receiving.

Let the *Nihon Keizai Shinbun*, Japan's financial daily, explain:

"Often appearing in brochures touting gourmet tours are the words 'A gorgeous separate dining room has been specially prepared for our Japanese guests'. But all is not as it seems on the surface. Some travel

industry people say that, recently, Japanese gourmets have started showing up at first-class European hotels and restaurants.

"Their atrocious table manners have prompted these establishments to set up separate dining rooms for Japanese patrons. They clap when the food is served. They snap pictures like cameras were going out of fashion. Generally, they make it difficult for other guests to enjoy their meals — thus the separate rooms."

Back in Tokyo, bar owners and restaurateurs are always looking for new ways to satisfy the Japanese appetite for novelty. Mock Venetian *palazzi* go up overnight at one Tokyo bar you can ski indoors between drinks. Perhaps the most arresting of the latest crop is a bar which has picked the Olympic Games as its theme. The year it has chosen is 1936, presumably because Berlin is hip with young Japanese at the moment. But there is something eerie about sipping cold lager in central Tokyo amid the Nazi German décor of Hitler's games.

*J*apan may have lessons for Britain's hard-hit steelmakers as well as for its cattle ranchers. Before British Steel put Ravenscraig in mothballs, it should look at how Japanese steelmakers have put redundant workers to use by diversifying out of steel. NKK, Japan's second biggest steelmaker, for example, has put ex-steelmen to work on a pig farm. They sell bacon and sausages from the farm to stores and to a restaurant they have opened. If nothing else, Ravenscraig's best

should be able to weld the crusts on British Rail meat pies.

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Making good the Lords

John Grigg

The Lords' rejection of the War Crimes Bill has reawakened debate on the future of the second chamber, already a general election issue, as the Labour Party is at least theoretically committed to replacing it with an elected body. Drastic reform is certainly overdue, but would an all-elected chamber be best? If the mode of election were still first-past-the-post, the new body would reinforce the faults of the present system. If it were elected on a more truly representative basis, its moral authority would be greater than that of the House of Commons, which could hardly be expected to vote for the creation of such a rival.

Besides, there are great advantages in being able to bring into Parliament some people who would never offer themselves as political candidates. Governments have benefited from the occasional recruit from outside politics (eg Lord Whitton), and the value of such recruits to Parliament as a whole is obvious. Few would deny that the chief merit of the existing House of Lords is the presence in it of eminent figures from almost every department of national life.

The House currently has two crippling flaws. The first, long recognized, is its basically hereditary character. As Nancy Astor pertinently asked, who would think of having hereditary cricket teams? All the arguments put forward in support of the automatic right of hereditary peers to sit in Parliament are demonstrably false or at best specious. It is said that hereditary peers are more independent than those who are nominated. But independence is a quality of mind and character that a privileged background does not, by itself, confer. There have ever been servile party hacks among the hereditary peers. Another argument is that the hereditary peerage is more representative, since it is a random group, rather like a jury. But juries are far more broadly based, socially and economically, than the hereditary peerage.

It is further argued that for politics, as for horse-racing breeding counts, and that there are political families, as there are musical, medical and sporting families. But the British second chamber is just about the only sphere in which hereditary talent does not have to prove itself in action. A racehorse, however good its breeding, has to race.

Finally, there is the contention that only by the hereditary process can youth be brought into the second chamber. This is a fallacy; younger members could be introduced by a much better method. The age-balance certainly needs to be rectified, since the next most serious flaw in the existing House of Lords is its markedly ancient character. This has been made far worse by the Life Peerages Act of 1958, for most life peers are appointed in the late afternoon or early evening of their lives.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

I remember an old cartoon in which the Thurber woman looks up at her man and says: "Ah yes, but you're you and I'm only me"; there is a lot of that going on.

A Westminster Council Cleaning Department officer buzzed my buzzer one weekend to tell me that my black rubbish bag had no right to be on the pavement until Monday am, and if I did not mend my ways there would be a statutory fine. Some weeks later, when I put out the bag at dawn on the designated day, it remained *in situ* for 48 hours; there was no door on which I could beat a tattoo to get my own back.

Restaurants, when you book a table, now ask you for your name and address and telephone number — and the great and angry Nico Ladenius is reputed to demand the details of your credit card also — so the proper vengeance can be taken on those who fail to honour their commitments.

Well, some time ago, I did all those proper things and confirmed the reservation on the day of the dinner, as they had suggested I should. When I arrived, the head waiter asked if I would care for a drink in the bar and I said no, we will sit at our table. We could not sit at our table because there was no table vacant at which to sit. I asked the man for his name and address and telephone number and he was wholly uncooperative. He was him and I was only me.

I have an excellent travel agent called David, an honest broker who finds me inexpensive flights when I want to go to Portugal and plucks lemons from the tree in the Algarve house. Prior to encountering him, I used to ring firms that advertised "Flights to Faro from £249" to discover that those flights and game would I like one at £165.50 plus airport tax?

About six weeks ago David booked me a flight for next Sunday evening, departing Gatwick 9pm, returning eight days later at 6am. "Do they let flights depart Faro at 3.30am?" I asked. Evidently, said David, which could be why it only costs £99. I said OK, paid him and this Monday rang to ask for the

flight number, because the car hire people needed it. David said he would get on to Avro Tours, the operating charterers and ring me back.

He rang back. Avro Tours, member of the Association of British Travel Agents and holder of an Air Travel Operator's Licence, having advertised the flight and taken my money, found — possibly due to the 3.30am departure — that there was not much call for the excursion and cancelled it. David thought that because few people had booked, they had not bothered to announce the cancellation or tell the travel agents that they were in what is called "a non-flight situation". They had known about this for three weeks, said David, replete with umbrellas.

I asked whether ABTA and other important associations who had accorded them the dignity of membership would pay compensation.

"No," said David, but having acquainted Avro of my displeasure, they would exceptionally and without accepting liability be prepared to refund my money or find me another flight. Trouble is, there is no other flight on that Sunday evening; there is a British Airways scheduled flight the following morning, but the cost is more than they are prepared to pay... so it's off to Stansted for an 11.45am departure on Monday, which means that the first day of my holiday will be spent travelling. David said that if I'd not been me — with a title and a column in a newspaper — I might not have found out until I'd got to Gatwick.

"Will ABTA and ATOL help them?" I asked.

"Heavens, no," said David; "you have to be real villains to get expelled." Avro operates from Haydon Road, London SW19, which makes me realize that I should have written nice things about Citalia, who flew me to Naples with style and efficiency and astonishingly acceptable in-flight apple pie and cream last week. Should you go to Italy because you feel you have to watch the World Cup, look no further. If you fly elsewhere, beware.

Michael Evans on the words that must change as alliance leaders meet in Scotland today

Nato gropes for a jargon of peace

It is difficult for a successful alliance to drop or temper the familiar terminology associated with 40 years of the cold war. Why, the argument goes, give up well proven principles and military or political strategies — and the language that goes with them — when they have helped to keep the peace in Europe? But the reunification of Germany and the external security issues it raises for the Soviet Union and the Nato alliance demand a total change of perspective and of language.

If Nato and the Warsaw Pact issue a special statement on Germany's future security role, as President Gorbachov proposed at the Washington summit, the choice of language will be a test case for East and West. Words will have to be found to satisfy all the groups with vested interests: the German people, Nato, Moscow, the Soviet military, Germany's European neighbours. They will also have to satisfy Mr Gorbachov himself, for the German question is a key part of his personal struggle to survive as Sovjet leader.

Nato foreign ministers meeting in Scotland today will have to

address this conundrum, and contemplate the ways in which the alliance can change its structure and organization so as to emerge more political and less military.

Cold war language should have no part to play in the debate. Yet Nato is still armed with the catch-phrases that have served so well in the past: forward defence, flexible response, an appropriate mix of conventional and nuclear forces, and so on. In the short term (five years), there is no other logical strategy, for the Soviet Union remains a military superpower and Mr Gorbachov's moves to democracy are not irreversible.

But the reunification of Germany, which will go ahead whatever lies behind Mr Gorbachov's proposal, requires a comprehensive rethink of Nato's strategy for central Europe. And there may be a need to sacrifice such sacred cows as "flexible response" and "forward defence". This is partly because the East Germans will be unwilling to join an alliance that still smells of cold war militarism, but principally because if there is to be a new European security framework that is acceptable to everyone, existing operational concepts

will have to be modified, transformed, or scrapped.

There is already evidence of fresh thinking in Nato. The communiqué issued by its Defence Planning Committee in Brussels two weeks ago predicted fundamental changes in the alliance's defence posture "in the longer term". The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, acknowledged the West's changing attitude in an interview with *Izvestia* six days later.

The principles of Nato's strategy review will be outlined at the London summit next month, and should help to convince the Soviet leadership that, in the words of the Defence Planning Committee communiqué, the Western alliance wants "a co-operative, not confrontational, approach to the challenges that lie ahead".

Yet the prospect of a united Germany being a member of Nato is still viewed by Moscow as a threat to the security of the Soviet Union. Moscow's sensitivities can be respected by synchronizing future developments. An expanded arms control programme, the transformation of Nato and the Warsaw Pact into co-operating

political and security alliances, and greater institutionalized involvement of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) all have to coincide.

The basic elements of a deal on Germany's security status were offered to the Soviet Union by President Bush at last week's summit. They include a pledge to keep Nato troops out of East Germany and to allow Soviet forces to stay put for a transitional period of up to five years. But to demonstrate that the West is prepared to take much bolder steps now that there is no longer a military threat from the Warsaw Pact, the alliance should be able to commit itself further, although only on certain conditions, which need to be spelt out.

To the Bush package could be added a commitment to reduce the German Bundeswehr — by up to 20 per cent if Bonn agrees — and all other Nato forces in central Europe (including those of the United States) by 40-50 per cent. This could be synchronized with the withdrawal of the 380,000 Soviet troops from East Germany. A proportion, perhaps a third, of

the troops involved in the withdrawals by both sides should be demobilized.

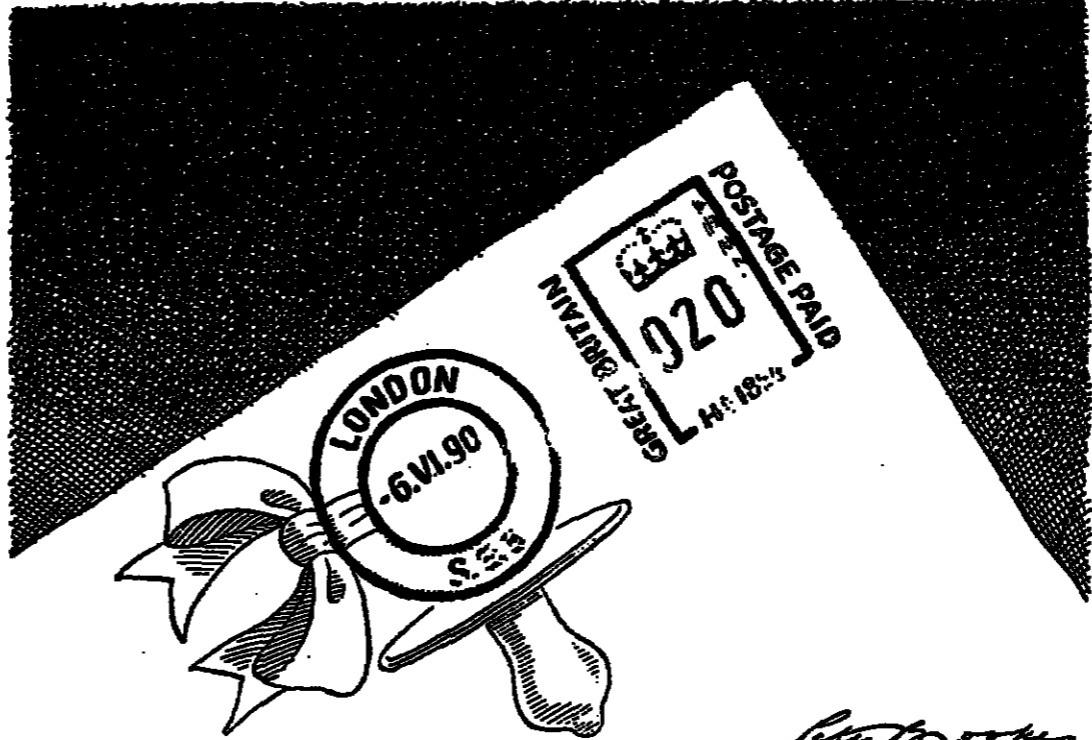
In the same five-year period, negotiations on short-range land-based nuclear forces in Europe should reduce tactical missiles and nuclear artillery shells to a minimum (200-300 warheads) on each side, with a view to elimination in 10 years (the so-called third zero).

Limiting the numbers of air-launched and sea-launched theatre nuclear missiles may also be on the agenda in the next five years, but Nato's planned replacement of old free-fall nuclear bombs with stand-off, medium-range missiles has to go ahead, and Moscow should be told that a "fourth zero" — elimination of air and sea-based missiles in Europe — cannot be contemplated while the Soviet Union remains such a significant military power.

These proposals can safely be offered, provided all Soviet troops leave Eastern Europe, that a treaty on conventional forces in Europe is signed and fully implemented, that the Soviet Union's democratic reforms are rigorously pursued, and that East-West relations continue to improve.

What on earth is Nanny doing in the letter-box?

Bernard Levin asks if there are to be no limits to the interfering ministrations of the Office of Fair Trading



members or subscribers, and throw away the kind of mail the recipient does not want.

For this must industry bleed, and the Post Office put its prices up. Or was I not justified in calling him a Nanny? For he was not advising caution in investment, or emphasizing the importance of thin, or urging comparative shopping for consumer durables; he knows that most people own a wastepaper basket, but he is so concerned to ensure that his charges shall never grow up that he will not, if he can help it, let them throw away their own rubbish. If the provision of rubbish is not stopped at source, so that it never gets into the hands of the nation, the nation, it seems, will collapse.

Now he has a new fat; he made an entire speech on the subject the other day. He was chiefly concerned with the fact that the MPS, or Mailing Preference Service, whose annual luncheon he was addressing, needed more money; he wanted industry in general, and the Post Office in particular, to provide it, so that the MPS "can become a widely-used and effective deterrent".

And against what is the MPS supposed to become a widely-used and effective deterrent? Assaults on women who live alone? Shoplifting? Eating biscuits in bed? No, the hideous danger from which Nanny Bonie gallantly offers protection is junk mail. The task of the MPS is to sift the post of its

real world, the other to a swamp of helplessness. It seems that the MPS "has only 311,000 names of people who have expressed a desire not to receive junk mail". You and I will conclude that there are therefore only 311,000 households, or individuals, who can be bothered to register with the MPS. But that will not do for Sir Gordon; no, "I believe that this low level of usage by the public is more likely to reflect a lack of knowledge of its existence than any lack of content with direct mail."

Very well; let us accept Sir Gordon's explanation. If he is right, many more people would sign up with the MPS if only they knew about it. The burden of my argument then shifts: what is the matter with those people that they are unable to throw away mail they do not want, but must needs hire someone else to do it?

Many years ago, I was appearing on *Any Questions*, and the World Cup series was about to begin. One of the questions went something

like this: "What can we do when we find that television and radio are putting out the World Cup whenever we switch on?" I was sent in to bat first; I drew a deep breath — I wanted a good deal of emphasis for what I was proposing to say — and started: "Switch the thing off," I said "and do something else. Go for a walk; knit; read a book; take up carpentry; talk to your companions; if all else fails, make love."

There were a few gasps, a modicum of applause, a little laughter and — quite clearly — a large number of people to whom my solution of their problem had never so much as occurred. I cannot see any difference in practice between the people who do not know what the switch on the television set is for, and those who want somebody to throw their junk mail away. *In either case, is not that matter for alarm?*

Or at any rate, shouldn't it be? A terrible thought comes into my mind, and will not go away,

even though I throw stones at it. Am I entirely wasting my time? Do the British want to be nannied? When they see a heap of letters on the mat, would they be happier if there were a Junk Mail Warden on every corner, so that all they would have to do is put their heads out of the door and call him? Though even that will not quite do; much junk mail is well disguised, and some quite genuine letters look suspiciously junkwordy. We must then appoint Junk Mail Scrutineers; these, when the Junk Mail Warden confesses himself baffled, will be empowered to open the dubious envelopes and read the contents, before either throwing them away as guilty, or handing them over as innocent.

Then, however, there must be Junk Mail Superintendents; these would, when the Junk Mail Scrutineer pressed his Emergency Call Button, come running. You see, some weak-willed citizens, having asked, in the appropriate ceremony, for the Junk Mail Court to have their Junk Mail filtered, may see on the mat a document that, although undoubtedly Junk Mail, looks interesting; it would be the Junk Mail Superintendent's task to confiscate the item before the customer had a chance to read it.

The Junk Mail President — but you get the idea. None the less, I still want an answer to my question. Why, if people do not want the offers, promises, goods and enticements of junk mail, can they not simply throw such material into the dustbin, and shut up about it? Which brings me back to Sir Gordon Bonie, where I started. In the speech I referred to, he said, among other things, that "both targeting and content have to be above reproach to encourage public confidence".

No they don't; not, at least, in the case of households equipped with something to throw the rubbish in. What about building a wastepaper-basket so gigantic that it would easily swallow the entire Office of Fair Trading? To be on the safe side, we had better also build a giant shredder, through which the building and everything in it would go before disposal. Provided, of course, that the Junkmailmaster-General had given his permission.

Chamber of horrors

Trained relations between the Lords and the Commons will not be helped by a scathing assessment of the contribution of backbenchers to society, made by the Labour peer Lord "Ted" Willis. "A great many have digested the bitter truth that being an MP is only marginally better than being a dog warden, and they have had the good sense to find themselves something useful and remunerative to do outside the House," he says in *House Magazine*, the weekly journal of Parliament.

MPs protect their sanity, if not their lives, by travelling the world on what are laughingly called fact-finding tours. The rest drag themselves to Westminster, using it either as a club or a rest home. They satisfy their consciences by drafting private members' bills which propose such vital measures as a ban on top-up drink cans, or preparing reports that will never be delivered.

Willis, a playwright and television scriptwriter, has even less respect for the 100 or so MPs who make up the government: "See trout fishing offers more scope for the individuality of the angler. The season, after a long period of work in the stale air of cities, coincides with the first burst into freedom and fresh atmosphere." Wandering alone down glens and over moors, read Ridley, from the words of yet another, Lord Grey of Falloden: "See trout fishing offers more scope for the individuality of the angler. The season, after a long period of work in the stale air of cities, coincides with the first burst into freedom and fresh atmosphere." Wandering alone down glens and over moors, read Ridley, from the words of yet another, Lord Grey of Falloden: "See trout fishing offers more scope for the individuality of the angler. The season, after a long period of work in the stale air of cities, coincides with the first burst into freedom and fresh atmosphere." 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the troops, backed by tanks, were withdrawn by 10 years. In the same five years, Britain's nuclear deterrent was reduced from 100 to 50 missiles. The British Trident missile has been replaced by the American Minuteman III.

funny
box?



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

THE FUTURE OF TRIDENT

Britain and the United States are staring at real differences over the future of Britain's nuclear deterrent. In the bargaining which characterizes the late phases of arms reduction talks, the Soviets have raised the stakes on the British Trident missiles. The future of Britain's deterrent rests on the good will of the American President in continuing to defy Soviet pressure.

A small nuclear deterrent is only worth having if the weapon can be kept up to date in its entirety. Credibility depends on modernization stretching into the future as long as any conceivable threat might last. The Start negotiations on strategic weapons are bilateral between the United States and the Soviet Union. Until now, the British deterrent has been excluded from the "non-circumvention" clauses of missile treaties, in which the signatories abjure indirect methods of evading the treaty limits.

The Soviet Union has long wished to see the British and French nuclear deterrents included in these talks. The Trident warheads to be figured only as a fraction of the totals. But at the heart of the talks now under way is a discussion of a "Start 2" treaty. If that were to bring strategic warhead numbers down on each side to 3,000 to 4,000, up to a thousand Trident warheads begins to look like more than a fraction.

Hence the sudden worries over Soviet negotiators asking for an American commitment that there would be no American replacement to Britain for the Trident D5. Such commitment would effectively abolish the British deterrent. Its entire defensive power would vanish from the moment it was known that the new weapon was the last of the line.

The official interpretation that these are endgame ploys by seasoned Soviet players may be correct. If satisfactory compromises are found on German reunification, Moscow may relax. But if the specific difficulty over the British Trident increases — as it must if strategic arsenals go on shrinking — Britain is

faced with two choices, neither of them attractive.

For the British and French governments to maintain any degree of independence over their most powerful weapon, they require to be either technically self-sufficient (the French choice) or safely excluded from superpower missile trading (the Anglo-American option). The agreement first codified for Polaris in 1958, by which America provides Britain with technology for a deterrent which Washington does not completely control, is still the ultimate symbol of the much-derided special relationship.

At some stage some concessions will have to be made — perhaps a greater degree of transparency in the Anglo-American arrangement. But for Britain any deal must stop short of the Soviet intention to break the continuity of weapon supply. Close monitoring by London of the fine print of these negotiations is plainly more urgent than ever, for each new development may present opportunities to protect the key to British national security.

The alternative is for the British Government to attempt to take a full part in the strategic missile negotiations themselves. That cannot be done without the Trident warheads being counted in the arithmetic of reduction. The pressures to reduce Britain's deterrent beyond usefulness would then be massive. Dependence on American technology would work against, rather than for, British interests.

The only way of avoiding American pressure of that kind would be for Britain to go down the French route, to convert to complete self-sufficiency in nuclear technology. This would be massively expensive. Besides, such "junior" deterrents may in the future be vulnerable to space weapons technology, in which a country such as Britain cannot possibly partake. The need for a separate British deterrent may one day be questioned. Until then, the Trident insurance policy depends on the backing of President Bush. He must simply refuse to countenance the Soviet demand.

MR ATKINS' TRIAL BALLOON

The public's attitude towards drinking and driving has changed significantly over the past decade. People have learnt to be careful. Many lives have been saved, many families not left ruined, as a result. Could even more now be saved by a further shift?

The minister for roads and traffic, Mr Robert Atkins, appears to think so. Without revealing his own preferences, he is floating the proposition that the time has come for even tighter restrictions, especially ones targeted at groups such as young and newly-qualified drivers who are either among the most reckless or the least experienced. He is moving in the right direction, but he should proceed with some care before starting the legislative engine.

The popularity of low alcohol beer, the relatively new social acceptability of "No thanks, I'm driving" and a volume of anecdotal evidence all suggest that the Government's effort at mass education in the last few years has resulted in a beneficial change of behaviour. True, the legislative introduction of road-side breathalyser testing and of strict penalties for being caught was a necessary condition to make these changes in attitude take place, but it was not a sufficient condition. Mass advertising, including annual police campaigns at Christmas and the new year, have made a crucial contribution in bringing home the personal responsibility of every motorist. The fear of losing a driving licence is one sort of deterrent, but the fear of maiming or killing is what matters most.

As a result the present law on drink-driving now corresponds to what most people think is right and fair, and they are probably prepared to be persuaded in favour of even lower breathalyser limits if the argument is good enough. Among those who most need to be persuaded, however, are the young drivers who are the subject of Mr Atkins' thinking. Of all sections of the population, they are the most likely to harbour ambivalent or negative feelings towards those who would have to enforce tougher controls, the police.

The police are wary of laws which are not supported by a moral consensus, for that can

bring them into angry conflict with the ordinary citizen in a way which does nothing for their public relations. When a pattern of behaviour is newly criminalized by changes in the law, it is important that it should also be "criminalized" in terms of public attitude. The options being considered by the Department of Transport include making it an absolute criminal offence, backed by severe penalties, for young or newly-qualified drivers to drive with anything but a zero blood-alcohol level. This would be going too far. Alcohol fades from the bloodstream at varying rates, and may take until some time the next day to disappear completely. However law-abiding he wanted to be, the individual concerned would have no way of knowing whether he was fit to drive for many hours after the obvious effects had vanished.

Such a draconian imposition would be resented as unfair, and the consensus the law requires would be missing. The present law has focused on stigmatizing the driver who drives immediately after the drink. The connection would be severed if the individual who drinks modestly at lunchtime was expected to abstain from driving until the following morning. If there is to be a lower limit for sections of the driving population at risk, it should not be so low as to lead to complete uncertainty in the mind of the potential culprit.

To distinguish those to whom such new restrictions might apply, it is further suggested that young or newly-qualified drivers might be obliged to carry a sign, similar to an "L" sign, perhaps showing a "P" for probationary. This works well enough in Northern Ireland, where the letter used is "R" for restricted, and most people who first come across the practice there find it entirely sensible. Mainland Britain should borrow it on its own merits, along with associated speed restrictions. A lower limit on blood alcohol would make sense as part of a broader package of laws applying to probationary drivers, and would be more likely to gain the public support they would need.

NOT JUST ABOUT MAPS

Geography, says the dictionary, is "the study of the natural features of the earth's surface... and man's response to them." The dictionary speaks true. Geography embraces every fact on earth: every aspect of the composition, occupation and history of the planet. It is the monitor of our abuse of our environment and our guide to its preservation. As such, geography knows no intellectual boundaries. It deserves to sit at the centre of any liberal education.

School geography has none the less recently had to fight its way back from being a mere option to being one of the foundation subjects in the Government's National Curriculum and is still far from being one of the "core" subjects. While the grandees of English, science and mathematics sit luxuriating above the salt, geography was originally left to fight it out with history as an option for teaching time, below even such peripherals as French and gym. Now, geography will at least become compulsory. But its lowly status is an educational outrage, a comment on the domination of teaching in Britain by the universities and their medieval academic priorities.

Yesterday, the Government's working party on geography began what could be a long rearguard action. The new, flexible list of guidelines for teachers of children at ages 7, 11, 14 and 16 shows that geography's small band of guerrillas has bravely captured much of the "green" territory now so fashionable among school children — and thus being coveted by the conservatives for "pure" science. In future, seven-year-olds will be expected to know about the weather, about their neighbourhood, about travel and land use. By 14, they should know about the configuration of the landscape, its

impact on population, industry and transport, about the food chain and species survival. By 16, pupils will have strayed more confidently into soil science, economic history and the regulation of the environment. They should be able to recognize the world about them and understand the natural and human forces which shape and change it.

Yet these are no more than spoils from the outer bailey of the "core" curriculum. Geography should be encouraged to seize the central fortress, ejecting both pure science and that grossly over-promoted intellectual exercise called mathematics. Geography should stand alone on the scientific pedestal, joined only with its one educational equal, the study of the human spirit in English language and literature. Geography is queen of the sciences, parent to chemistry, geology, physics and biology, parent also to history and economics. Without a clear grounding in the known characteristics of the earth, the physical sciences are mere game-playing, the social sciences mere ideology.

The education secretary, Mr John MacGregor, said yesterday that geography was vital for pupils to gain "an informed appreciation of the world in which they are growing up and in which they will live and work as adults." Nobody would quarrel with that. But why does a government so commendably interventionist in matters curricular not put its words into action? Why does it trapse along behind the academic conservatives? If Mrs Thatcher's "full repairing lease" on the earth is to be honoured, British children must be taught how to do-it-themselves. Geography should be declared a core.

An officer class and the police

From the Secretary of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales

Sir, The debate on policing has recently included much criticism of police management, often coupled with suggestions that the injection of a direct-entry officer class into the police service would be beneficial. A recent suggestion was that surplus redundant Army officers could be drafted in to help.

It is difficult to determine from whence these suggestions have come. Certainly they do not emanate from any source that has seriously studied modern policing, nationally and internationally, or has studied police and military history in any depth. Incidentally, I would venture to suggest that the failure of military training to cope with the problems at Peterloo, 170 years ago, was a major factor leading to the establishment of the British police system.

The training of police and the training of the military are entirely different in approach. The military concept gives little or no authority to lower ranks and is required to inculcate obedience to orders. In the police service the lowest ranks work mainly alone, and with a great deal of discretion.

It is extremely difficult to train officers to respond to the public on an individual basis with tact, discretion and understanding, but that is exactly what police training does. Our senior officers need to understand the independence of the constable and his relationship with the public. This is best learnt by personal experience.

Conversely, military training emphasizes team spirit, aggression, loyalty to the regiment above all, and determination to achieve their aim at all costs. That is no doubt entirely right and proper for the military role, but we query whether it would assist in providing a police service of a kind that the public expects.

We have for many years recruited ex-military personnel in some numbers. Many have made good policemen and some have justifiably gained advancement, but only after re-training into a new civilian environment and truly learning their craft.

What we are growing tired of waiting for is any reasoned case that an officer class in the police would actually bring improvement.

Yours faithfully,
RAFAEL ATTAR,
60 Wolsey Road, Moor Park,
Northwood, Middlesex.
June 5

Back pain practice

From the Secretary of the General Council and Register of Osteopaths

Sir, We welcome the recent report by the Medical Research Council which concluded that chiropractic treatment almost certainly confers worldwide long-term benefit for many patients with low back pain in comparison with hospital outpatient management (report, June 1, later editions).

It shows that manipulative therapy is effective in the treatment of certain types of back pain, and it confirms previous studies, done mainly in the United States, on the advantages of both chiropractic and osteopathic treatment.

Registered osteopaths would love to see osteopathic and chiropractic treatment available to patients on the NHS in the future, but they realize that such a step is not feasible at present. There are only some 1,400 osteopaths and some 400 chiropractors in this country who have completed a four-year full-time course of training; there are not enough of them and that 44 per cent were only occasionally used.

On the demand side, if local authorities have been slow to use their powers to enter into access agreements, this is evidence of the lack of perceived demand from the community to make an additional recreational resource available.

In trying to encourage local authorities to provide recreational facilities for the ever-growing number of visitors to the countryside, the CLA has advanced proposals for environmental land management services — essentially contracts between landowners and consumers for the provision of the environmental, including recreational, facilities which are wanted by a mobile and largely urban public.

Supply and demand can be

matched by these means, rather than by relying on a network of footpaths which does not appear to meet modern requirements.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM DE SALIS (Chief Economic and Land Use Adviser),
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1

From Mr John Howe

Sir, Can a lecturer in central London really have such an affinity with the countryside that she is in a position to tell us, land-using farmers, how to manage the countryside?

Ms Shoard seems to be in a

muddle. Why can she countenance exclusivity in a back garden whilst saying that I should open up my factory floor to all and sundry? Would ICI, for instance, allow the public unlimited access to their plants?

Just because my factory floor has no walls and is open to the view of everyone, why should that give them the right to come inside?

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HOWE,
Shefford Park Farm,
Uckfield, Sussex.

Supply and demand can be

matched by these means, rather than by relying on a network of footpaths which does not appear to meet modern requirements.

Yours faithfully,

PEGGY DYCHE,
25 Blakes Avenue,
New Malden, Surrey.

From Mr Ray Smith

Sir, I suggest Sagittarius. A name

with classical roots avoids

nationalistic hurdles. The meaning

is well known, not only to the

astrologically inclined. And to

railway buffs and the older genera-

tion on both sides of the channel

there is instant connection with

the Golden Arrow/Fleche d'Or.

Yours faithfully,

ROY SMITH,
Elkley, Dormans Park,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Naming the train

From Ms Peggy Dyche

Sir, May I put forward Vanguard

as the name for the cross-Channel

train service. It suggests being in

the forefront of a movement. It

also has the connotation of a

guard's van, which should appeal

to safety-conscious as well as

to railway buffs.

Yours faithfully,

PEGGY DYCHE,
25 Blakes Avenue,
New Malden, Surrey.

From Mr Roger Simpson

Sir, Your review does less than

justice to the new production. In

my opinion, as a member of the

audience on the second night, the

performance was most theatrical

and magical. Thank goodness for

its inventive innovation, for Peter

Sellars, but above all for Glyndebourne, which over the

years has shown that it knows how

to keep opera vibrantly alive.

The production will go on tour this

autumn and that there is a

planned recording by BBC tele-

vision, so that this splendid *Magic Flute* may be seen by a wider and

less privileged audience.

Yours faithfully,

ROGER SIMPSON,
Chartfield, Park View Road,
Woldingham, Surrey.

Where charity begins

From Mr S. J. Osmond

Sir, Mr Paul Messing's suggestion

(June 5) that charity sponsorship

should be related to more useful

activity than table tennis mar-

athons has been applied for many

years in Hong Kong.

As an alternative to sponsored

walks, which raise millions of

pounds, there are sponsored clean-

ups where groups of volunteers,



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 6: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, honoured Epsom Races with her presence.

The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Household Waiting were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Ullswater (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this morning, upon the departure of Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy for Portugal and made farewell to Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Duke and Duchess of York arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this evening from the United States of America.

Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

The Prince Royal arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham this morning from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Mrs Charles Ritchie, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs and Mr John Haslam were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 6: The Prince of Wales, President, attended the General Council Meeting of the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London (The King's Fund) at 21 Palace Court, W2.

Major General Sir Christopher Airy was in attendance.

His Royal Highness opened the Project at Mothers' Square, ES, jointly developed by the New Housing Group and the City and Hackney Health Authority.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community and President, The Prince of Wales' Advisory Group on Disability, attended a reception at Inn on the Park, W1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend the annual meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Albert Hall at 3.00 to mark the federation's 75th anniversary.

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the annual luncheon of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation at the Cafe Royal at 12.45; and, as Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, will hold a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will open the Hereward Wake Residential Centre and the Benham Sports Arena, King's Park, Northampton, at 3.00; and open the new extension to St John's Home for the Elderly at 4.10.

The Duchess of York, president, will attend the Hackney Horse Society annual show at the South of England Centre, Ardingly, West Sussex, at 11.00; and will attend the forty-fourth international congress of the International Union of Graphic Reproduction Industries at the Royal Lancaster Hotel at 2.15.

The Princess Royal, as Presi-

Commander Alastair Watson, RN and Mr Richard Arbiter were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Presi-

dent, laid the foundation stone

of a new clinical block at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, SW3.

Subsequently, Her Royal Highness attended the launch of the Amateur Swimming Association's 25m 90° venture at The Queen Mother's Sports Centre, 223 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1.

The Hon Mrs Vivian Baring and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Jephcott, RN were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

June 6: The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the Bristol Theatre School, Theatre Royal, Downside Road, Bristol.

Mrs Peter Wilmet-Sitwell was in attendance.

RATHCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK

June 6: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy, attended by Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning to visit Portugal on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Factory House, Oporto.

On arrival at the Airport, Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy were received by Senator Michael Corleone (Chairman of Afairnas Portus, Portugal).

Sir John Shaw (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) and Mr Robin Baxendale (Manager, Special Facilities, Heathrow Airport Limited).

dent of the British Knitting and Cloth Export Council, will attend the annual meeting and luncheon at the Berkeley hotel at 11.45; and, as Monarch President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend a meeting of the council at 80 Portland Place at 2.30. She will take the salute when the Massed Bands of the Household Division Beat Retreat on Horse Guards at 9.25 pm.

Princess Margaret will open the Gamma camera unit at Hertford County Hospital at 3.00.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Royal Hospital Chelsea's Founder's Day Parade at 10.47.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, will visit the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association at 2.30.

The Duke of Kent will unveil the Polish Air Force memorial in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral at 2.25; and, as a Royal Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, will attend a development appeal reception at Buckingham Palace at 5.45.

Prince Michael of Kent, as Patron of the Brooklands Museum Trust Appeal, will attend a luncheon to launch the appeal at the Naval and Military Club at 11.00.

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The Princess Royal, as Presi-

Joe Loss, LVO, OBE, one of the most enduringly popular bandleaders in this country, died aged 80 in a London hospital yesterday. He was born on June 22, 1909.

OF ALL the major bandleaders who at one time dominated the entertainment scene in the United Kingdom, Joe Loss must be counted as the leader, since for long after the end of what has since become known as the "Big Band Era", he alone survived. He was the youngest of the men who fronted the huge dance orchestras of the Thirties and Forties, a group which numbered among its members names like Geraldo, Lew Stone, Jack Payne, Jack Hylton, Henry Hall and Ambrose. But when changing public tastes and old age forced them into retirement, Joe Loss carried on.

For almost the whole of the half century or more in which Loss ran his orchestra — its members changed but he stayed essentially the same dapper performer all the time — he was a household name. He was a big figure in his branch of show business within a couple of years of establishing his orchestra at the Astoria Ballroom in Charing Cross Road in 1930 and remained so until past his golden jubilee in 1980.

He once said that he played all kinds of dance music and always accepted new trends. But at the same time, he drew the line at playing punk music and never neglected the old "standards" for which he had become famous. For 40 years his signature tune had been "In the Mood", originally popularized by Glenn Miller, perhaps his nearest American counterpart but whose own career at the top had barely spanned seven years before his death. Loss's own version of "In the Mood" sold a million copies, and he went on to make numerous other hit records.

Loss always said that he never went into a ballroom with preconceived notions. "I read the floor and let them decide what I shall play," he would say at least one of his numbers would be "The Woodchoppers Ball", which he first played before the Second World War.

Joshua Alexander Loss was born the son of Israel Loss, a Russian-Jewish cabinet maker, who after service in the Boer War had settled in the Stepney district of East London. He was the youngest of four children and went to the Jewish Free School near Petticoat Lane. Even in those days he was immaculately turned out and a fellow pupil remembers his shining white collar and equally shining leather satchel. In class he was ever quick with the answers.

His father's ambition was that he should become a classical musician and, indeed, the young Loss showed great promise. He gave his first concert at Toynbee Hall at the age of 10, an occasion marred by the fact that a practical joker had spread butter on his violin strings. Four years later, he won a scholarship to the Trinity College of Music and received private tuition in the violin, too. What he did not tell his father was that very often instead of going to lessons he parked his violin in the box office of a local cinema and spent the evening watching the pianist play the sort of numbers he did not hear at college. He was also known to play the violin himself in a Commercial Cinema.

At the age of 18, he was working professionally as a violinist at a cinema in Watford. Soon afterwards, he had two jobs simultaneously, in the orchestras of the Rialto and the London Pavilion cinemas, moving swiftly from a shift in the first theatre to another at the second. He then became a dancer for the Royal Variety Show. His work entailing the Royal Family was rewarded by his being appointed OBE in 1978, the year after receiving the Queen's Jubilee Medal. His appointment as LVO in 1984 was further recognition of the esteem in which he was held.

When the British Expeditionary Force landed in France, Joe Loss was there, too, with his band. Throughout the war he toured military establishments and munitions factories all over the country as well as in war zones overseas. After the war, he continued to tour the country with his band, often accompanied by a loyal group of fans who went virtually wherever he did, whether it was to a dance hall in Yorkshire or to one of the many appearances he made on Royal Variety Shows. His work entailing the Royal Family was rewarded by his being appointed OBE in 1978, the year after receiving the Queen's Jubilee Medal. His appointment as LVO in 1984 was further recognition of the esteem in which he was held.

At 21, he formed his own orchestra and very soon afterwards was the number two group at the Astoria Ballroom in London's West End. Two years later, he was playing at the Kit Kat Restaurant, one of the most popular haunts of Edward, Prince of Wales and his set. It became the start of a very long association with the Royal Family, which made him virtually the "By Appointment" bandleader to the Royal Household, playing at both private functions and State occasions at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor.

Perhaps the most important facet of his career was the fact that he knew which way his activities had to develop. From the mid-Thirties he broadcast regularly and his wartime *Music While You Work* programmes, and others in which he was featured several times a week, were eagerly awaited by a music-hungry public. He was a recording artist for what later became EMI for most of his career.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Jesus said: I tell you that many prophets and kings have wanted to see what you see, but they could not, and to hear what you hear but they did not. Luke 10: 24

BIRTHS

ABRAHAM - On May 29th, at The Portland Hospital, to Georgia (née Rosengarten) and Charles, a daughter, Alexandra.

ALEXANDER - On June 2nd, to Alan and David, a daughter, Zoe.

ARCHER - On May 17th 1990, in Brunei, to Nicola (née Sutcliffe) and Simon, a daughter, Georgina, Anna, Joys, a sister for Charlotte.

BARRON - On May 27th 1990, at St Luke's Hospital, to Judith and John, a daughter, Katherine Grace.

BEACH - On June 4th, to Michael and a son, a brother for William and Eleanor.

BROWN - On June 6th, to Steven (née Walker) and John, at Oldstock Hospital, Salisbury, a daughter, Charlotte. Caroline Elizabeth, a sister for Sophie.

COLLINGWOOD-ADAMS - On June 1st, at St Luke's Hospital, to David and Garry, a daughter, Jennifer Sarah.

DIXON - On June 5th, to Louis (née Davies) and Peter, a son, Philip.

ELSTY - On May 29th 1990, to Bertram and Howard, a daughter, Miranda Caroline, a son, Alexander Michael, a daughter, Victoria Anna.

GERARD-CARRE - On June 4th, to Pauline (née Montgomery) and Ian, a daughter, Rebecca Sarah.

GRAHAM-WATSON - On June 19th 1990, at St Luke's Hospital, to Frederick, Graham Watson, a son, Roy William.

HABAM - On June 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to Michael and Marie Thorne, a son, Phillip.

KELLY - On June 3rd, at The Portland Hospital, to Anne (née McNamee) and Michael, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth June.

LEE - On June 6th, at The Portland Hospital, to Anton and Anna, a daughter, Tara Elizabeth.

LENNER - On June 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to Vivienne (née Lister) and Steven, a son, Robert Jay.

LUTHER - On June 3rd, at The Portland Hospital, to Lucy and Lydia, a son, a brother, David Ronald.

MADDOW - On June 4th, at West London Hospital, London, to Susan and Matthew, a son, Alfred Peter, Thomas.

OFFORD - On May 30th, to Elizabeth (née Garguilo) and Peter, a son, Nicholas Andrew, a daughter, a brother for Venetia.

OSB-EWING - On June 2nd, to Fleur (née Knight) and Colin, a daughter, a son, a sister, Cordelia and half-sister for Francis and Bridget.

PEARNSHED - On May 30th, to Alison (née Chalmers) and Derek, a son, James.

PREST - On June 5th, at St. George's Hospital, to Catriona (née Craig) Harvey and Tom, a son, Edward.

RAMSEY-LIVETZ - On June 2nd 1990, to Matthew and Sarah-Jane, a son, Frederick Michael James.

RIDGE - On June 4th, to Judy (née Peacock) and John, a son, Edward James, a brother for Charlotte and Suzanne, and always a welcome addition to their行列.

WILL - On May 31st, to Anne and Peter, a son, Thomas.

ZELLER - On May 30th, at The Portland Hospital, to Eileen and Gerd, a son, Timothy Jonathan. Praised for his maternal qualities.

ANNIVERSARIES

EDWARD - Happy Anniversary. Thank you for our beautiful Caroline. I love you. Peter.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

LUNDGREN - On June 7th, 1930, in North Shields, Howard to Eileen, now at Hollywod, Cowden, Kent.

STOCK-GRECH - On June 19th, 1930, at Portsea, Hampshire, to George and Geoffrey Charles to Mollie. Hockley Hall near Wallington, Oxon.

DEATHS

ASKEOTT - On June 5th, Peter Askeott, 86, died peacefully at home, in Cradley, near Malvern, Worcs. Beloved husband of Dorothy and Richard. Funeral Service at Cradley Parish Church, Cradley, on June 11th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK, 21 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 2BY.

BARTLETT - On June 5th 1990, at home, John Bartlett, 86, beloved husband of Anthony Le Faust. Beloved mother of Joseph, Anthony, Sarah, Jeremy and much loved son of Jack. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Caversham, on June 11th at 2.30 pm. Flowers or donations in memory of Leonard Martham of Tide Farm, Bedfont, London, to Cancer Research UK, 21 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 2BY.

MARTIN - On June 5th, aged 86, Donald Martin, beloved husband of Margaret (née McLean), daughter of General Sir Malcolm Crozier K.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.A. and C. Martin I.M.S. Adored and adoring mother of Peggy (Davidson). Peter and the late David, sons of Fiona and David, great-grandmother of Robert, Christopher and Fiona. Loved and admired by her friends of all ages as someone very special. Funeral Home, Tiverton, on June 11th at 2.15 pm, followed by a private cremation. Funeral Directors, Tiverton, if desired to St Columba's Hospice, Bowral Road, Edinburgh 5.

MCLEOD - On June 5th, Patricia, beloved wife of Commander McLeod, after a long and painful illness borne with courage. Cremation at St. Mary's Church, Bowral, on Wednesday June 13th. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

SCOTT - On June 5th, 1990, at home, Mrs. Jean Scott, 81, beloved mother of John and Barbara, after a short illness. Brenda McLees, 81 years old, of private residence at Godalming. Family flowers only. All welcome at the church.

NICHOLLS - On June 5th, his birthday, peacefully at home in Ruislip, Middlesex. Nursing Fellow, West Sussex. Brigadier A.W. (Nick) Nichols C.I.E., M.A., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O., F.R.C.R., M.R.C.P.U.K. beloved husband of Jean and Richard, father-in-law of Wendy, grandmother of David, son of Helen, Emily and James. Cremation at Chichester at 5 am on Friday June 13th.

STOCK - On June 5th, 1990, at home, Mrs. Ethel Stock, 86, beloved mother of Alison, Elton and Caroline, and Bapa to Catriona. Funeral Service at St. Peter's Church, Bowral, on Friday June 13th at 1.45 pm. Friends and colleagues are most welcome.

LOW - On June 1st, suddenly in Chelmsford, Essex, aged 71, Lt-Col. Donald M.C. R.A. (ret'd). Dearest wife, father of David and Diana, and beloved father to Alison, Elton and Caroline, and Bapa to Catriona. No flowers at her own request.

POOLE - On June 4th 1990, at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, to Jenny and loving grandfather of Emma. Appreciated and sadly missed by many friends. Private funeral service at St. Michael's Church, Eastgate, on Friday June 13th at 2.30 pm, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St. Lawrence Church, Liverpool. Tuesday 26th at 2.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers, if desired to St. Michael's Church, Liverpool, or to the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, 119 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 1LR.

LAWRENCE - On June 5th 1990, peacefully in his sleep. Mrs Douglas Lawrence, Instructor. Lieut. R.N. treasured his father, Captain of the Royal Navy, his son, a guest at his home, aged 65 years. All enquiries to Brian Warner Funeral Service, tel. 01202 464477.

READER - On Tuesday June 5th 1990, greatly loved husband of Ann and father of David and Roger. Reader Author of "A Schoolmaster Looks On". Funeral service to be arranged. Donations to Multiple Sclerosis Society, 100 Regent St, London SW1 1EC.

MCLEAN - On June 5th, peacefully in hospital and long illness, Mr. McLean, late The Gordon Highlanders, beloved husband of Margaret and mother-in-law to Sue and Linda. Private cremation followed by a Service at Thanksgiving at All Saints Church, Bowral, on June 11th at 2.30 pm. Flowers or donations to Cancer Research UK, 21 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 2BY.

SHAW - On June 5th, 1990, peacefully at home after a long illness, Peter Shaw, 80, of Caversham, Berkshire. Private flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK, 21 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 2BY.

WHITE - On June 5th, 1990, peacefully at home, Mr. and Mrs. John White, 80, of Caversham, Berkshire. Private flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK, 21 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 2BY.

WILSON - On June 5th, 1990, peacefully at home, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, 80, of Caversham, Berkshire. Private flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK, 21 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 2BY.

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HEALTH

MEDICAL BRIEFING

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

A singer stopped in his tracks

Michael Jackson, the 31-year-old eccentric singer who, despite selling more than 40 million copies of a single album, is almost as well known for the plastic surgery he has employed to redesign his face, as his voice, suffered chest pain this week severe enough to warrant his admission to hospital. He and his doctors, were concerned lest he had suffered a coronary thrombosis. The causes of chest pain are legion and in Mr Jackson's case the list must be even longer than usual, and the diagnosis trickier, for as well as being a fitness fanatic who is accustomed to spending hours a day torturing his body with violent physical exercise he is also a food addict, who it is rumoured, lives for months on vegetables and brown rice.

Reports that a coronary had been diagnosed as a result of a single blood test which showed that the level of a cardiac enzyme was higher than usual are unlikely to be accurate. The diagnosis of a coronary thrombosis by plotting the blood levels of three enzymes, creatinine phosphokinase, CPK, the aspartate amino transferase, AST, and hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, HBD, may be quite different but predictable times over the three days following a heart attack, is always difficult; these tests are usually used only to provide confirmation of the evidence already raised from suspicious

changes in the ECG, the heart racing. In Mr Jackson's case, because of his enthusiasm for punishing exercise, the enzyme changes would be even more difficult to interpret than usual. For just as the muscle damage following a coronary thrombosis causes changes in the three enzymes, so does limb muscle damage caused by violent physical exertion. When, for instance, the enzymes of a hospital scientist were checked after a recent marathon they were found to be more than twice the upper limit of normal. The fraction of the first enzyme to rise, CPK, which can be related to heart muscle damage, can be separated from that due to damaged limb muscle but it is unlikely that a single reading would be considered diagnostic.

Slimming, too, might have confused the diagnosis. Mr Jackson is reported to be conscious of every superfluous ounce. Excessive dieting when accompanied by a low protein intake causes muscle loss from the heart which can result in an irregular heart rate which might well give rise to either chest pain, or the palpitations which patients often describe as chest discomfort.

Heart attacks in the early thirties are rare, but when they do occur it is usually because the patient belongs to the 1 per cent of the population who have inherited a tendency to hyperlipidaemia, either a high blood cholesterol,

or more rarely an increase in one of the other blood fats. These patients will need medical treatment with lipid-lowering drugs as well as dietary advice. Health education campaigns designed to reduce the incidence of heart disease by altering the lifestyles of whole communities by discouraging smoking, sloth and over-fondness for saturated fats, are directed at the other 99 per cent of the population. There is evidence from those countries which have concentrated on health education that the reduction in heart disease which has followed the campaigns is in part due to a change in habits as well as to the natural ebb and flow of any disease. In a trial in Finland in the area which was subjected to a very intrusive campaign, the heart attack rate fell by 24 per cent, whereas in the control area only by 12. Other trials suggest that improving diet by choosing foods rich in the anti-oxidants, vitamin C, vitamin E and betacarotene may also reduce the chance of heart disease.

A danger on the doorstep

Although William Grundy of Ambridge is still at his primary school, he is already following in the footsteps of those other *Archers* characters, his father Eddie, grandfather Joe, and his wicked uncle, a recidivist who makes only occasional appearances in the town. William's crime was to steal the milk off the doorstep. He is not alone in doing this but unlike the magpies and jackdaws who have been taking the milk-bottle tops in parts of rural Northumberland he did take the whole bottle and not leave a residue of milk behind contaminated by *Campylobacter jejuni*, which is the most common reported cause of acute diarrhoea in the United Kingdom. Four doctors from the Gateshead and Newcastle area who have been studying

outbreaks of campylobacter enteritis in the Gateshead area have been publishing their findings in *The Lancet*.

Most of the 58 cases in one outbreak of diarrhoea could remember drinking cold milk which had already been attacked by birds. This small epidemic occurred over a three-month period on a housing development near to open countryside and many of the residents of the housing estate had seen magpies or jackdaws pecking at the milk tops. Nine milk bottles, four with their seals

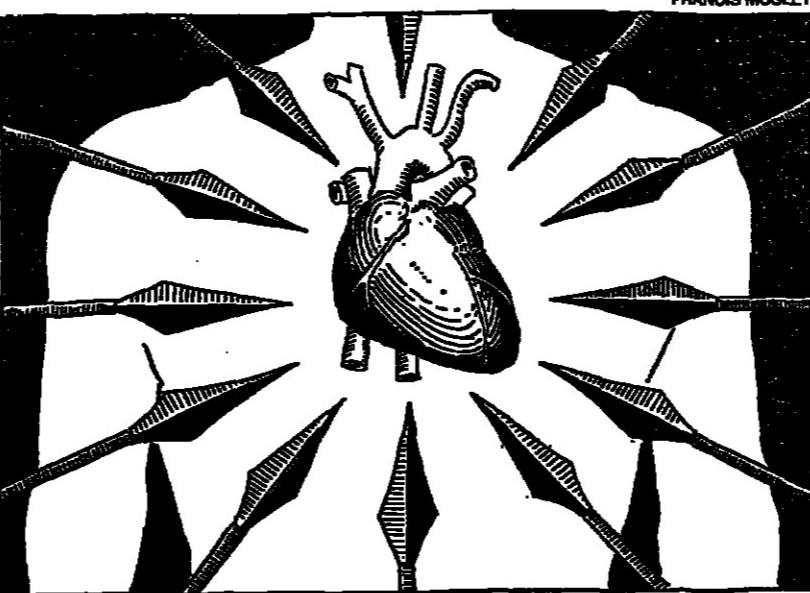
intact and five whose caps had been pecked, were examined at the local public health laboratory; no undamaged bottle showed evidence of campylobacter but two of those ravaged by the birds were infected.

Campylobacter has been isolated from the beaks of jackdaws, but the doctors are still unable to explain on medical or ornithological grounds why the outbreak was so localized, and why it was confined to a comparatively short period between May and July.

Full plates for starters, please

Research Council's nutrition unit at Cambridge, has also been working on the importance of early feeding. In order to separate the effect of other socio-economic factors often associated with early malnutrition, factors which would be likely to provide a lack of intellectual stimulation, he is studying the long-term influence of minor changes in the feeding formula of 1,000 premature children who were randomly assigned to different but apparently nutritionally acceptable diets currently used in established medical practice. He has already shown that even very minor changes in the formula in the first month of life can have a significant influence in the baby's physical and intellectual growth judged by the times that they pass the milestones of the first year or two of childhood. His work already supports existing, but less statistically sound, evidence derived from retrospective studies which suggested that not only is a child's physical and mental development affected by early feeding but also its later ability to withstand infection, its likelihood of developing allergic or auto-immune disease, and even its liability to have a heart-attack in middle-age. Dr Lucas stresses that development of the brain is particularly dependent on good feeding in the first two years of life in general, and the first month or two in particular.

Dr Alan Lucas, from the Medical



The Cup that cheers and inebriates

Football is not a matter of life and death, the late Bill Shankly once told his critics in a moment of exasperation, "it's more important than that". The man who almost single-handedly restored Liverpool's fortunes would have been fascinated by the findings of a fellow Scot, Dr George Masterton. His research has given scientific weight to what Mr Shankly understood instinctively: that for the committed fan, the influence of a sport extends far beyond the stadium.

Dr Masterton, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, found that attempted suicides and referrals for mental illness in the area dropped significantly during, and for some time after, the past four World Cups. "The numbers were down by 15 and 20 per cent," he says. "It's not just the tournament itself, because the effect seems to last for about eight weeks afterwards. Nor is it only to do with Scotland participating, because they were knocked out in the first stages on each occasion."

"Somehow the football is a catalyst; it changes the way people behave and interact with each other. We don't know exactly how or why. It may be similar to what happens in wartime, when suicides also drop because people are distracted from their per-

Does the excitement of a big match make people nicer and more tolerant?

Liz Gill investigates

sonal problems and have something else to talk and think about. What is particularly interesting is that the rates also dropped for women, whereas when you hear all the talk about disruption of family life and football widows you might expect them to go up."

A possible explanation, he says, is that men and women spend less time with each other during big sporting events and therefore have fewer opportunities for conflict. But that would not explain the post-tournament figures. "I wonder if it makes people nicer, more tolerant towards each other," he suggests.

Dr Masterton believes his findings would not be replicated in areas where football was not part of the culture, although other sports might show similar results. "When I worked in Somerset, for instance, no one was interested

in football, but they cared passionately about cricket. And you might get the same effect with rugby in Wales."

Football can be enormously influential on a community's well-being, says John Williams, co-director of the Centre for Football Research at Leicester University. "In 1972, when Sunderland unexpectedly won the FA Cup against Leeds United, employers on Wearside said levels of production went up, because the win raised morale so much. It's also said that when West Ham won the cup a couple of years after that, there was an upward blip in the birth rate in the East End of London nine months later.

"Although football is expensive to police, the police themselves argue that it saves massive costs elsewhere in terms of social problems. Your team's success can be good for you psychologically."

There can be negative aspects as well, Mr Williams says. "Anger and unhappiness about a game can spill over into other areas of life. You hear of men attacking their wives after an argument over the television. And if you over-identify with a team you can lose your sense of yourself as an individual."

Mr Williams believes the game offers men a much-needed outlet for their emotions. "Football is an excuse to cheer, shout abuse, let off steam,



Breaking the social rules: football gives men a much-needed outlet for emotions. "It is an excuse to cheer, shout abuse and let off steam"

steam and hug other men. Spectators do that as well as players when a goal is scored. Modern society offers men very few chances to show their feelings."

Dr John Fazey, a psychologist in the Sport Health and Physical Education Department at the University of North Wales, in Bangor, says the most important element of big sporting events is the escape they offer from other problems. "If you've had a frustrating day and you come home and spend two hours or more watching a match on television, then by the time it's finished the things that were upsetting you may have been forgotten. Over the next month we're going to have a

lot of people having a good deal of time out from their worries."

Watching the World Cup might be psychologically beneficial, but sitting slumped in front of the screen for hours is unlikely to improve physical health unless it inspires the viewer to exercise. Dr Fazey says this does happen. "Governing bodies of various sports often say they're inundated with requests after things like the Olympics, when lots of little girls suddenly want to become gymnasts. The interest, however, does tend to dissipate after a while."

John Balding, director of the Schools' Health Education Unit at Exeter University, believes there is a trickle-down effect from big sporting occasions. The marathon leads to the mini-marathon, which in turn leads to the village fun run. Often, though, the big event only inspires those who are already highly motivated, he says.

Alcohol and football seem inextricably linked in this country in a way, Mr Williams says, that they are not elsewhere, and this seems to apply both to spectators at the match and at home. According to Dr Masterton, alcohol-related problems, both physical and mental, soar during the World Cup: the rate is double the

average in the last week of the tournament.

Increased alcohol consumption is often accompanied by snatched meals or junk food snacks. "You can put on a bit of weight in a month, which can then be hard to shift," says Dr Alex Mills, senior registrar in public health medicine at the Health Education Authority.

"It's better to eat something like fruit rather than crisps and to go for a walk round the block at half-time and to drink moderately."

The thrills of a sport have a physiological effect on the spectator, releasing adrenaline, pushing up the pulse rate and raising the blood pressure. Although this is harmless for

most people, it could trigger an attack in someone with a heart condition, Dr Mills says.

When Dr Masterton made a computer search of medical literature to see if anything had been done on physical health in this field, all he found was a study done in West Germany in 1974, which showed a substantial increase in the number of patients with cardiac difficulties. "And that was the year they won," he says. "I'm sure it is psychologically stressing, but I think the stress is probably related to expectations. Germany expected to do well that year. I think it's probably even worse if you have your expectations raised and then dashed by losing."

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BREATHING SPACE

David Gee

AS DIRECTOR of Friends of the Earth, I see health issues as a great mobilizing force. I spent about 20 years working for the TUC and trade unions trying to preserve and enhance the health of people at work — that's where my passionate interest lies. And now, with FOE of course I'm concerned with the health of the planet itself.

I try to keep as fit as possible — I lead a pretty stressful life, doing very demanding jobs and taking very seriously the care of three children and the household. To keep fit and stave off a heart attack, I run pretty frequently. Once or twice a week I swim, and every Sunday morning I get up at seven o'clock to play tennis.

Every morning when I get up I make a point of doing seven minutes' exercise — partly psychological in order to get a grip on the day and relax, partly as a means of keeping fit. Thirty press-ups and 15 knee-bends and a variety of other exercises. If I'm feeling depressed or out of control of life I tend not to want to do the exercises, so it becomes a little psychological hook to get hold of, to drag you back into tackling the world in the way it should be tackled. I tend to eat a lot and rapidly, which probably doesn't do me any good, but at 43 I'm in remarkably good health.



Recycling in the home is very important, but people aren't given any encouragement. I have three dustbins — one each for newspapers, bottles and aluminium cans — and every two or three weeks I pass a very good local authority collection point and dump them.

We've got four bikes at home. I used mine a lot last year during the rail strike. The fume levels were appallingly high. It was most unpleasant — the smell and realization that you were breathing in low-level carcinogens from the diesel fumes.

I've always been an optimist, and I remain so even though the problems we face are large. Probably there is only this decade left in which to take the right steps to save the world.

INTERVIEW BY PAMELA NOWICKA

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FICTION

GLYNNE BOYD MARTIN

Old furies behind the fine façade

Victoria Glendinning on the new collection of short stories from a veteran pro of love, only bulwark between life and death

THESE STORIES are terrific. It's as if Edna O'Brien were an actress who had been one of the great ingenues of the age, playing Juliet and Desdemona (with the odd ambitious stab at Cleopatra), until she could go through the mazy motions of despairing love in her sleep. And then the actress takes a leap in the dark, and discovers that she has the authority and the resources to do something different.

The 12 stories are still inimitably O'Brien, in their lyric appreciation of handsome men and home-made cakes, in their now stylized Irish lit, intensities, and spelling mistakes. Her throwaway details are as spot-on as ever, as when she instantly characterizes a doting childless couple by remarking that they "make their own butterscotch". Her sometimes uneasy combination of pinched gentilities with wild, inspired phrases and images makes new and complete sense in this collection, in which behind the prim and proper facades of houses – and of people – chaotic impulses and furies suddenly erupt.

The narrator in "Epitaph" sees everyone as holding on, containing their violent emotions – just.

"If their skins were peeled off, or their chest bones opened, they would literally burst apart." Jealousy, indecency, hysteria, dementia, howlings, and weepings break out in these stories, leaving shock-waves. In "Off in the Stilly Night", a devout woman in an Irish village, who does the church flowers for the reception of a visiting preacher, bursts apart in obscene madness, raped by a lily, exposing grey pubic hair to the territorial priest.

O'Brien is still writing about love – the "bulwark between life and death" – but love of various kinds, and not always named. The aging Irish farm woman in "Brother" – which is funny as well

meets by chance the man she loves and who left her. It is she who refuses to resume the affair, knowing it cannot last, "no longer afraid of her emotions, no longer raving about bays and bougainvillea, but reaching right down to the root of the love or the lingering love that was there, hauling him out of himself, shedding the lies and the little pretences, forsaking the wobbly balustrade that 'had been theirs'. This is good writing, and good thinking.

In "Storm", the most accomplished story in the book, lovers are seen from the outside, with "an awful clarity" and something worse than irritation, by an older woman. She is on holiday in the Mediterranean with her son and his adoring girlfriend. "She sees her age and her separateness much more painfully here than when at home. Like other women in this collection, she feels she will "erupt and erupt", and, like the weather, she breaks. This is a very honest story, and includes a virtuoso evocation of the mother's nervous anxiety, guaranteed to produce extreme vicariously maternal agitation in any reader.

It's a measure of the confidence and quality of this collection that one notices the relationship of the title story with Joyce's *The Dead* without a critical qualm. "Lantern Slides" is about "a smart gathering in a select part of the outskirts of Dublin – full, as Mr Conroy said, of nob's". Which means, of course, that the party was none of those things. But behind the pathetic boastings and subterfuges "you could feel the longing in the room, you could touch it", and defining Joyce, O'Brien ends not elegantly but with a bursting-out of life and hope. (It's not as good, but it's good.) The deserted wife for whom the party is given announces that "being of a certain age" is not the worst time in a woman's life". O'Brien in her prime proves the point.

LANTERN SLIDES
By Edna O'Brien
Weidenfeld & Nicolson £12

has changed. The woman alone in a seaside hotel in "Another Time" lets go of the past as of some awful affliction, and what concerns the woman in "Epitaph", by the end of the story, is how to escape the prison of her love. She can see that "ours was a small tragedy", compared with the real tragedies of the world. "It is not that one cannot bear the parting, it is really that one cannot bear the meeting, because of so many constraints."

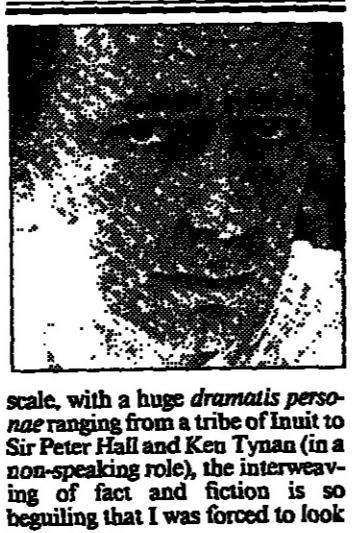
This question of how to part "decently" is the subject of "Long Distance", where the heroine



Flies in the ointment

Michael Wright

SOLOMON GURSKY WAS HERE
By Mordesai Richler
Chatto & Windus, £12.95



scale, with a huge *dramatis personae* ranging from a tribe of Inuit to Sir Peter Hall and Ken Tynan (in a non-speaking role), the interweaving of fact and fiction is so beguiling that I was forced to look

up the Gurskys in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, just in case.

At times, Richler's historical research threatens to overload the system; old Ephraim Gursky wanders through Victorian London "mindful of dippers and gonopaths, moving on smartly whenever he espied a peeler"; this is a narrative voice not prone to slang, is a trifle showy.

The robust Jewishness of the main characters is at times grotesquely funny, at others funnily grotesque, as Richler pushes the stereotypes firmly in the direction of burlesque. Meanwhile the fruit sections provide scope for some buttock-clenching gore: "He found him... chewing greedily on a raw seal's eye, sucking the goodness out of it." Ugh.

The goryoles may be hideous, but the architecture is sound. There is delicious subtlety in the way that symbols and leitmotifs recur and resonate. This is a very fine work: a treasure-house of detail that demands concentration.

PERFECTLY understandable mistake. Because the Japanese habitually put surnames first, Amos Kingsley, distinguished writer of *My Ass and I: a Journey by Donkey in the Highlands, Fairies Fair Isle, a Pattern of History*, and a positively anorexic volume of undergraduate verse, finds himself elected to the presidency of the World Association of Authors in mistake for his, well, slightly more distinguished near namesake. With unexpected greatness thrust upon him, Amos discovers a hitherto unsuspected genius for the splitting of diplomatic hairs, papering over apparently vast ideological divides with "formulas" so vaguely worded as to offend no one and mean nothing.

Amos's particular misfortune, though, is to have to chair the most controversial world congress the WAA has ever held. The host nation, Malindi, has a strikingly poor record for jailing dissident writers, and Amos is already somewhat *mal vu* in the international literary community, for having contributed a glowing preface to a *Festschrift* celebration of a writer of whom he has read not a syllable, but who turns out to have

The garbage of lit. activists

Brian Morton

VISITING CARDS
By Francis King
Constable, £11.95



bent's spinelessness (read: diplomacy) – is her trump card. Francis King was himself an unusually effective President of International PEN, and he understands the politics of junketing particularly well. Where the best of his recent novels – *Act of Darkness* and *The Woman Who Was God* –

have disguised their humour in a black exterior, *Visiting Cards* is a confection with a tooth-breakingly hard centre. King sees literary politics, with the Rushdie affair an inescapable presence, as a kind of

privileged shadow fight, out of touch with everyday realities. The book's most telling moment comes when a WAA delegation visits the imprisoned writers in Malindi's Lubjanka, and pile in with an earnest set of questions about food, accommodation, toilet facilities. These, though, are the obsessions of privileged people on a freebie, not of prisoners of conscience. All they are concerned about is the denial of writing material. King pushes home the point by having Amos, driven to self-abuse by the disappearance of his wife, and by a rather non-specific lust for the tiny Japanese versifier who is his sponsor, mistake her scroll-poem (which is in itself a rare evidence of actual literary activity) for a Kleenex.

Satirically, King is working a long exposed seam, with Bradbury's *Rates of Exchange*, Lodge's *Small World*, and Stoppard's *Professional Foul* all before him. What he suggests, though, in a very English euphemism of his title, is that writers and their entourage of academics and critics do very little more for a shrinking world than leave their messes on its doorstep – and all in the name of "conscience".

Counting Japanese sheep

Sabine Durrant

A WILD SHEEP CHASE
By Haruki Murakami
Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

LIGHT CAN BE BOTH WAVE AND PARTICLE
By Ellen Gilchrist
Faber, £12.99

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME
By Gillian Tindall
Hutchinson, £12.95

DARKNESS FALLS
By Joyce Anne Schneiders
Heinemann, £12.95

the incipience of their response to foreign climes.

The best of the stories confront the inadequacy of this reaction. "An Independent Woman", for example, concerns the visit of a dowdy career woman to a once wild schoolfriend now married to a Muslim in Lahore. The extent to which they have grown apart is neatly illustrated by their respective attitudes to sightseeing. The guest is hungry for the dirt and colour of the old city, the hostess eager to show off the new Mall. The prose arranges the irreconcilable, bringing them together in order to spring them apart.

You would have to look hard for subtle arrangements in Joyce Anne Schneiders mystery novel, *Darkness Falls*. The baddy is easily recognisable from her "square face", and his fondness for cobwebby gloom. The goodies have their goodness ascribed to them with the simplest of shorthands (Amanda listens to Aretha Franklin or Brahms on her car stereo). The plot involves a drowned girl, a psychiatrist's tapes, and all kind of complicated business involving properties and keys. Holiday reading perhaps – unless you happen to be an estate agent.

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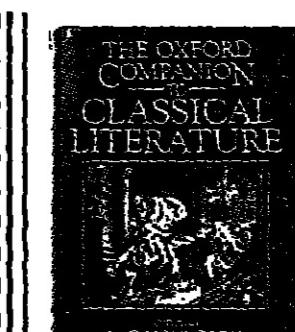
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Spelling it out without dirty bits

Melvyn Bragg, whose new novel includes explicit descriptions of sexual activity, considers how attitudes to sex and eroticism in literature have altered in the past 100 years

Children of my generation were conditioned to regard descriptions of sex as "dirty bits". The literature we inherited at school was safely handed down by custom and excision and ended around the First World War. We were Victorian throw-backs. In my corner of the regional outback, in which Hardy would have moved comfortably, the life reflected the work. The bedroom door closed. A look and an embrace had to take the strain. Marriage and, presumably, procreation were left stranded in impossible expectation at the end of the last chapter. Sex was a lower order, a lower organ, beneath the salt, unranked in the battalions of literature. Real English authors did not have explicit sex.

It had no proper place in our daily lives, either. The parts, the act, even the biological functions were never mentioned in my day, and the suppression bred a vigorous underground and subversive movement.

This began with ludicrously lewd "jokes", told and told again between the ages of 10 and 13: jokes which depended on sexual names from the wildest shores of caricature and predictable punch-lines (only half understood), which triggered spasms of common cackling. It moved to jock-strap innuendo in the changing rooms — again reporting an all-male experience — until finally, in late teens, some sense and experience were brought to bear on the case.

Innocence was the prize, ignorance was then the prop. Then people either continued to enjoy "the dirty bits" through pornography — which has never held any appeal for me, its exploitative sourness more than annulling any curiosity value — or they puzzled their way through the increasingly bold fiction of the 20th century. Sex came out of the bedroom like an avenger. To my generation in Britain, however, the main reaction to it continued to be anxiety.

Which was odd, for a number of reasons. In American fiction of the 1950s and 1960s (for example, take the contemporary work of the mainstream writer, John Updike), sex was a lush, densely described, vivid presence. True, there was still the distancing, even if only in jest. I remember Mary McCarthy saying she would like to meet Philip Roth — after *Portnoy's Complaint* — but "did not want to shake his hand".

Yet in homosexual novels there were explicit descriptions. In the 1980s, writers of distinction played games with pornography and "bad

taste", and sex has become commercial in the "sex-and-shop" novels.

In this briefest headline history a generation, mine, appeared to be beached. "Dirty bits" they still somehow were, with D.H. Lawrence invoked by some to make others realize the essential importance of sexuality, and dismissed by others for what was deemed his blushing and tasteless clumsiness.

Later, a new movement — in novels, comics, comedy and literature generally — seems devoted to the notion that sex is to be sniggered over or laughed about, or, more important, dismissed as boring and irrelevant. In my own life I find it neither boring nor irrelevant. It was part — let me stress, part, but a marvellous part — of the most powerful experiences and times I had known. But until recently I described it, if I

described it at all, as if it were held away in a pair of tongs.

In my new novel, *A Time To Dance*, the story of an overwhelming love affair — the dazzling and dark side of such an encounter — there is very explicit writing about sex. It is not pornographic. It is not reductive. It has to do with a love affair which is obsessive and erotic and even perhaps possessed by the soul. It took some doing for this representative of that generation of Englishmen, now aged 50.

For one thing, as a lover of much of our Eng Lit I too had enjoyed the multiple metaphors for sex, and the frissons of omission. E.M. Forster's off-the-page sexuality was years to my imagination. The strained, crystallized, restrictive torment of Hardy's hints and Henry James's almost unbearable foreplay were strange incitements. Nabokov, of course (and others, but he most

decisively), both added to that and undermined that tradition. But he was a genius and, besides, came from another culture.

Yet *Lolita* — not so much the story as the telling, if one can separate the two — set off a small fire from which my novel grew. As did the behaviour of Nora Bar-nacle, James Joyce's wife. And there is little sustenance from the merely raunchy writers, such as Henry Miller, whom the arguments of the feminists marginalized.

And so the list could grow. But what was a Victorian Cumbrian Protestant working-class free transfer to metropolitan media middle-class novelist to do about it all? Wait, as it turned out, until the "something" turned up that mattered. The image, the line, the opportunity and the nerve.

I wrote an historical novel called *The Maid of Buttermere* a few years ago, in which the key event was the

marriage between a notorious imposter and bigamist and a beautiful young woman who had lived all her life intact in a remote valley in the Lake District. The fraudulent marriage ruined him utterly, and it threatened to ruin her.

The more I examined the facts — and there are a surprising number, the incident became a great scandal of the age — the more it seemed that both must have sensed the marriage would be a disaster. But nevertheless they went ahead with it.

My conclusion was that sexual obsession drove them into an arrangement which was the only one her background and character would allow for the satisfaction of this obsession. A love which has to be expressed and satisfied, even though destruction is an inevitable consequence, became a notion to which I wanted to return.

Curiously in the book I next wrote, *Rich* — the biography of Richard Burton — I found another example of an utterly compulsive love which clearly signalled destruction from the beginning. Burton's fascination for Taylor — and his involvement with her and her wife in entries too dangerous to print in the published book — echoed and reinforced what had happened in Buttermere. That is the idea of a man and a woman being out of control in a passion which, they know, will as likely lead to destruction as to any placid conclusion, and yet committing themselves to it with all their senses, perhaps wholly unable to stop themselves.

Two other sources, (with hindsight) confirmed my interest in this. One is the *Liber Amoris* of William Hazlitt, which astonished me. I had read Hazlitt at school with the most enormous pleasure, and discovered some time later that he had jeopardized — and lost — his marriage and his reputation, at the age of 42, for the unreturned and skittish regard of a 16-year-old. I wanted to write about him and that cataclysm of love and jealousy in his tormented intellectual life. That was subsumed, I think, in *A Time To Dance*, as was the story of the play and film *The Blue Angel*. The central image of this story, that of the wrecked schoolteacher's complete humiliation, was again (who knows why?) something which clung around and emerged for this particular novel.

And so, out of the blue, came the opening sentence: "Darling Bernadette, As you have forbidden me to talk to you I must write." Unravelling that led to the novel, which concerns the unexpected, overwhelming and jealous passion of a 54-year-old man for an 18-year-old woman, who is, it transpires, as compelled by him as he by her.

This is not the place to outline the plot or comment on the book, other than to say that in the context of the piece it attempts to tell a story of the whole of what is involved in a passionate and even uncontrollable love. Inevitably, it exposes itself and inevitably that will be remarked on. That is because it deals not with the niceties of affection, which are so important and so well-chartered, nor the bludgeoning of pornography or cynical sexuality, but passion and eroticism, total and blind to everything else.

• *A Time To Dance* will be published next Monday by Hodder & Stoughton at £12.95.



Passion: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor acting together, and Sue Lyon and James Mason in the film of *Lolita* (above right)



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THEATRE

Nightmares and nicotine

Simon Gray is no respecter of critics and his latest play has just reached the West End, but he agreed to meet and talk about it with one of our theatre critics, Jeremy Kingston



Simon Gray, directing his new play *Hidden Laughter*

Simon Gray does not love theatre critics, and some of them he has frankly loathed. The pack of dismal Old Boys who meet a variety of horrid deaths in his last television play were given the names of Wardie, Coweney, Billington et al, and some of the minor details of their family life were uncannily correct. Only a playwright's joke, of course, but as I looked at the two drunks on the table between us I wondered if I should discreetly switch the glasses.

I had suggested we talk about his new play over the telephone, safely separated by five miles of cable, and it was Gray who suggested a drink at the Groucho Club, where he is a member and I am not, so that I was unable to buy the drinks. He is a tall man, heavily built, and except when lighting another Silk Cut he keeps his eyes on me.

He has smoked heavily for years. "I tried nicotine chewing-gum for a time, but in one of the worst nightmares of my life I was holding a great mass of the stuff out in front of me, with hairs growing all over it. I'd rather have the nightmares," he said.

Hidden Laughter, starring Felicity Kendal and Peter Barkworth, and directed by Gray, is now previewing at the Vaudeville. Set in a West Country cottage, it follows the fortunes — "mostly misfortunes" — of a London family weekending there over a period of 13 years.

Is it a comedy? "Oh, people laugh." Gray's plays, however, are never quite that simple. The wit, the dagger-sharp observation and the general muddle his characters make for themselves is shot through with a bleaker vision of life: "old life itself", as one of the men in *The Common Pursuit* ruefully remarks. Gray considers himself an optimist, but

possibly in the way that Chekhov thought of himself as a writer of comedies.

This will be his 16th play in 24 years, not counting seven television plays and two adaptations for the National Theatre, but counting the two versions of *The Common Pursuit* as one. This makes him our most prolific playwright after Ayckbourn.

Except for the five Victorian explorers in *The Rear Column*, going to pieces in the upper reaches of the Congo, his characters are drawn from the circles he has moved and worked in since he arrived in Cambridge as a postgraduate at the age of 22: novelists, agents (one of each is featured in *Hidden Laughter*), lecturers, schoolmasters, publishers.

They are literate, witty and doomed to disappointment, if nothing worse, when the final curtain falls. In fact, the circles the whirr in are those of a 20th-century and intensely English *Inferno*, except that, unlike the world of Dante's phantoms, comedy keeps breaking in. With the exception of the Congo one, all his plays, even the almost elegiac *Close of Play*, in which Sir Michael Redgrave gave his last performance, are frequently thunderously funny.

One of the language tutors in *Quarantine's Terms* comments, as he watches his foreign students learning croquet, "They'll discover how much incivility is possible on our tranquil English lawns." It is a discovery Gray himself continues to make and display to us. And not incivility to others alone, though half-a-dozen of his men — usually those played by Alan Bates — would win medals for that in Hell. On tranquil lawns and Cambridge rooms and London offices Gray's cultivated Englishmen and women are shown being grossly uncivil to themselves.

Sometimes they smoke too much — hard to forget! Rick Mayall's hacking cough by the end of *The Common Pursuit* — but mostly they disjoin their lives through all too recognizable fears; fear of failure (not famous enough, not sex enough), fear of success, above all the fear of changing their lives. Somewhere before the plays begin, idleness or rivalry or the dashed hope of childhood love has wormed its way into their hearts and none of them dares shake it out.

You do not have to be foreign to fathom the English, but it helps. Though Gray might seem as English as they come (Westminster, Trinity, days spent at Lord's and the Oval) his early years may have given him just enough of an outsider's edge for him to learn, as the language schools might put it, the English as a foreign people. Evacuated to Canada during the War, he returned with a crewcut and a Montreal accent, and after his schooling he went back to take his degree at Hamilton, Nova Scotia.

He drew on his experiences there for his first two novels, written while still at Cambridge. "I loved Hamilton," he says. "It was a marvellous place." Perhaps it lies too far in the past to be a spur for drama. Or he was just too happy there.

One day, as an Englishman, he might tackle Canadians as a foreign people. For the time being England presents territory rich and convoluted enough for his heady eye and pen. If the smoking and the nightmares spare him.

• *Hidden Laughter* previews at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (071-836 9987) from Monday to Friday 7.45pm, Saturday 5pm and 8.30pm. First Night June 12, 7pm.

CRITIC'S CHOICE LITERATURE

PATRICK BARLOW: Founder of the often illiberal National Theatre of Brent and author of *All The Work's A Globe*. A chance to hear him discuss the history of the human race in a calm, rational manner with Griff Rhys Jones. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-530 0453), today, 1pm, £2 plus £1 membership.

POEMS ON THE UNDERGROUND: Last in the series of lunchtime readings presented by Poems on the Underground. Thomas Hardy poetry and prose compiled and read by Cicely Herbert and Gerard Benson. Part of the 150th anniversary celebrations. British Library, Seminar Room, Great Russell Street, London WC2 (071-836 1544), today, 1pm, free.

THE GREEN AWAKENING: The latest edition of *Poetry Review* focuses on green concerns. "Nothing in nature is simply itself any more... Where does that leave us — not only 'nature poets' but all of us who use the natural world as a point of reference?" Philip Gross sets the theme for an evening of poetry, song, and discussion. Alison Brackenbury, David Gascoyne, Helen Dunmore read with Philip Gross; Leon Rosselson sings his witty and bawdy songs; Peter Evans, Poetry Review editor, chairs a discussion with Norman Willis (TUC), Simon Mandy (Director, National Campaign for the Arts), and Ivan Hargreaves (Director, World Wildlife Fund). Poetry Society, 21 Earl's Court Square, London SW1 (071-370 6229), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2.25 members).

ROSALIND BELBIN, LEE HARWOOD AND TOM RAWORTH: Undoubtedly the reading of the week. Among Belbin's five novels and last year's *Is Beauty Good?* Harwood has published 16 books of poetry over the past 20 years, represented by the major collection *Crossing the Frozen River* (Paladin) and his past work appears increasingly poignant, determined to articulate positive qualities of beauty against a disenchanted world. By contrast, Raworth writes fast and pitiful poems, delivered at breakneck speed. He is a true jazz-infected poet, his words like lightning bolts — it twists and bends, starts. The publication of *Tottering State* (Paladin), a selection of work from 1963-1987, confirmed him as a major poet whose achievements are sadly neglected in his homeland.

Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-222 2222), tomorrow, 8.15pm (£2.25). KATHERINE GALLAGHER, CAROLINE PRICE, MYRA SCHNEIDER AND FRANCES WILSON: Four poets best known of the group, read from and discuss their work. Palmers Green Library, Green Lanes, London N21 (081-886 3728), Sat, 7.30pm, £2 (£1.50).

LENNI SISSY AND LEVI TAFARI: Sissay has a very strong reputation as an accomplished entertainer. His dynamic delivery and charming introductions mark him out. The poems, however, often fail to challenge us as strongly as the political muscle of his subject matter deserves. Levi Tafari, a club stylist, completes the programme. Willesden Green Library Centre, 95 High Road, London NW10 (081-451 0294), Sat, 8pm, £3 (£2).

NEW VOICES: Three poets based in the East Midlands, each of whom has received a writer's bursary to further their work. Alan Dunnott, playwright and theatre director; John Galas, whose work is concerned with "the blessings of disorder and the comedy and bravery of those who try to inflict order upon the world"; Elizabeth Smith whose writing is about issues arising out of cultural, class, and sex differences. Fagins Book Shop, Market Street, Leicester (0533 554854), tomorrow, 8pm, £2 (£1).

WATERSHED MEDIA CENTRE: Readings forming part of a feminist book fortnight. Joan Barfoot, Canadian writer and journalist, will read from and discuss her latest novel, *Family News*, published this month. Other books for which she is known include *Dancing in the Dark* and *Duet Three* (tomorrow, 7.30pm). Alison Bell and Leslie Dick-Smyth have just published *The Seven Cardinal Virtues*, written by seven of our sharpest women writers. Two of them, Alison Bell, representing Cheshire, and Leslie Dick, Greater Manchester, discuss their relative merits and read some of their work (Mon, 7.30pm). Watershed Media Centre, 1 Canons Road, Bristol (0272 278444). Tickets £3, £2.50 (£2.25).

THE HARD EDGE CLUB: This week's featured writers are the Nigerian, Patience Agbabi, Frank Kermode (known as a punk blues poet), and the high-falutin Sue Johns, Russell Scott and Vick O'Neill. One of the fixtures and most unpredictable readings — series in London at present. The Red Lion (upstairs), Great Windmill Street, London W1 (071-732 4007), Mon, 8.30pm, £2.50 (£2).

GEORGE BUCHANAN: A celebration of the work of dedicated European poet George Buchanan, who died last year. Readings of his work by several well-known poets, including Michael Longley, James Simmons, and William Oxley. Buchanan's work is generous and spirited and deserves far wider recognition. The Poetry Society (as above), Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2 and £1.25).

CRIS CREEK

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STARTS TO

CINEMA

ARTS

Post-glasnost, some prefer it cold

David Robinson on the week's new films, including *The Package*, *Clean and Sober*, *Diamond Skulls*, *3 Women in Love* and *Creator*

The villains in espionage thrillers change nationality from generation to generation, according to the shifts of international politics. Throughout the 30 years embraced by two World Wars, spies, saboteurs and secret agents were fairly certain to be Germans. With the Cold War, the Communists usurped them. The liberal spirit of the late Sixties gave a look-in now and then to CIA renegades or dubious parties from the Middle East; but Russians stayed pre-eminent in the cloak-and-dagger business right up to and beyond *perestroika*.

The villains of *The Package* (15, Odeon, Leicester Square) are nothing if not up-to-the-minute: a conspiracy of extreme right-wing hawks drawn from the high military establishments of the US and the USSR, bent on restarting the Cold War. This they plan to achieve with an assassination during the latest disarmament conference.

The influence of newsmen is strong in the staging of the preparations for the conference and state visit. The Soviet president is a Gorbachov look-alike; and familiar aspects of the Kennedy assassination figure in this conspiracy. At the same time, there is a reassuring respect for a thriller tradition that goes back beyond Le Carré and Richard Condon to Hitchcock and John Buchan. The hero is very like a Buchan-Hitchcock hero, a fugitive from his own side as well as from powerful, malevolent conspiracy of villains, who have a protean ability to assume any guise.

John Bishop's screenplay is a maze of complications, yet always remains lucid, as the tough, resourceful hero (Gene Hackman) is swept from peril to peril, in company with his quick-witted ex-wife (Joanna Cassidy) and a seasoned Chicago detective (Dennis Franz). Tommy Lee Jones is the tough, menacing assassin.

The Package is very much what

a cloak-and-dagger thriller should be: economical in writing, too fast to permit reflection on its probability, well-paced, well-staged, with simple but strongly defined characters and precise casting. The director was Andrew Davis.

The traditional Hollywood drug movie is about teenagers who get into bad company, have a lot of fun on the downward path and narrowly escape dramatically tragic finales. *Clean and Sober* (15, Warner West End) is new and contemporary in taking a mature addict from the professional middle class, and seeing him through the trying and undramatic process of a cure.

Michael Keaton plays a successful real estate salesman whose motive for checking into the clinic is far from desire to cure his cocaine and alcohol addictions. Rather, he seizes on the anonymity promised by the clinic as a sanctuary after a one-night bed companion dies of an overdose, at the same time that a slight case of embarrasment looks like catching up with him.

Keaton manages to sustain our concern for a character who — certainly in his addicted egocentricity — is essentially unsympathetic; and the successive phases of the cure, the passage from resentful resistance to willing co-operation, are carefully studied. He at first fights off the help of former addicts — Morgan Freeman in a very different role from that of Miss Daisy's driver; and M. Emmett Walsh — but in the end finds himself trying desperately to support others. His liaison with a young woman from the other side of the tracks contributes to the film's less convincing scenes.

The therapeutic intention of the film is undoubtedly admirable; and there is something homespun and touching the maxim of the first-time director, Glenn Gordon Caron, a former screenwriter: "You can't dig a hole so deep that you still can't climb out of it. That is one of the glories of being a

stranger than fiction, especially applied to its fiction writers.

Other writers, other memories again: Jenny Barracough introduced a new series of *Frontiers*, on BBC 1, by taking the South African novelist Nadine Gordimer back to Mozambique where, 25 years ago, she spent her honeymoon. Electrified wires and razor-traps now mark the border, but Gordimer's was a social rather than political study, concentrating on the erstwhile sexual and racial freedom of Mozambique and its contrast to the clenched racist inhibitions of South Africa.

Gordimer's are the eyes of a novelist in search of a story, but here there were so many that the camera found it difficult to focus. Her most intriguing thesis was that Mozambique was the "continent" (as in "popping over to the continent") for a generation of one misses an actor or two.

Other writers, other memories:

BBC 2's *Hidden Ground* took John McGahern back to County Leitrim, where his latest novel is set and was written facing a blank wall, since that it all he has ever wanted to look at while working out of his imagination.

An exile of the spirit, who has gone home to a farm he reckons he will never leave until the hearse comes, McGahern rambled around both his land and his theories of displacement, focusing on a period when he was sacked as a local Roman Catholic schoolteacher in Dublin, following the publication of a novel which the Church did not admire.

Politically, life is more complex now, but relics of the old Portuguese colonial luxury can still be found amid the ravages of civil war and a collapsed economy. Across this frontier of race and wealth as well as African geography, Gordimer and Barracough found Mozambique a nation where 200,000 children are now orphaned and 1,000 schools and hospitals closed.

South African rebels have made of it a human wasteland, and the national guilt that Gordimer feels is that of the exile who can see, all too clearly, yet one more reason to cry the beloved country.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Stranger than fiction, especially applied to its fiction writers.



Old-fashioned heroes: Gene Hackman and Tommy Lee Jones in Andrew Davis's *The Package*

tangled web of dark doings.

Broomfield, whose aggressive documentaries might have prepared us for his fierce social view, directs effectively, even if he is over-fond of ornate and enigmatic close-up details. Pity those from the lower ranks, socially or economically, such as Hugo's wife (Amanda Donohoe) or the sacrificial victim in this particular story (Douglas Hodge).

It is a social view which even Dave Spart or Ken Livingston might consider a rifle slanted; but Tim Rose Price's script makes it the background for a suspense thriller about obsession and conspiracy. The story begins with Hugo, driving with four friends, committing a hit-and-run killing. Out of this, Rose Price develops a

who run the establishment. Caravans, philosphy and four-in-a-bed turn out to be happily reconcilable.

Thorne, a solemn-seeming fellow, writes, "I am playing, and I'm ironical, but I am also extremely serious." The pleasant cast all enter so merrily into the film's undress, that any seriousness might easily be forgotten.

Creator (15, Odeon Mezzanine, Leicester Square) has been sitting on the shelves since 1985, which is not entirely surprising. It changes dizzyingly in all directions, without ever deciding where it is going.

Peter O'Toole is the only one to stay more or less astride this bucking bronco of a film, clinging grimly to his well-known Irishman's imitation of an English

eccentric: haw-hawing, looking down his handsome nose and chewing a nine-inch cigar.

O'Toole plays a Nobel Prize-winning biologist, dedicated to recreating the cells of his 30-year-dead wife. In addition, though, there are pious and sub-plots — variously comic, erotic, tactical, tragic and philosophical — involving college politics; the amorous pursuits of the biologist's assistant (Vincent Spano); the conquest of love over death; and the biologist's own liaison with a self-styled teenage nymphomaniac (Maricel Hemingway).

Adapting his own novel, Jeremy Leven crams in so much action and so many half-formed ideas that all is wrecked. The director was Ivan Passer.

GEOFF BROWN

TELEVISION

Writes and wrongs on cue

ALAN Bennett's new Channel 4 series, *Poetry in Motion*, on six 20th-century poets, got off to an uneasy start. An anonymous lady galloped across a cliff-top while Bennett's unmistakable voice, like Thora Hird playing Lady Bracknell for a North Country rep' in about 1950, intoned one of Thomas Hardy's lesser poems. At that point the production budget must have run out, for we were abruptly transported to a parish hall where, in front of a small but devoted gathering, Bennett began to read as from the pulpit.

Hovering dangerously close to the kind of academic parody the presenter himself once wrote for a 1960s series called *On the Margin*, this new series seems to have been designed as a mixture of declamation and gossip, and although Bennett is no Gielgud at the verse-speaking, his footnotes are, as usual, unmissable.

The first Mrs Hardy was apparently fey, vague and mad, but, as Bennett said, it is a thankless life being the wife of an artist: they are always expected to do the buttoning-up as well as the washing-up. Then we got a brief glimpse of the second Mrs Hardy (proposed to be a graveyard and shown a preserved tomb before the engagement ring), as well as memories of Sir Thomas himself, bicycling to a church 20 miles away to deliver a sermon, during which his bald head would steam gently in the pulpit.

A man who never liked to be touched, so that he walked in the road to avoid rubbing shoulders,

stranger than fiction, especially applied to its fiction writers.

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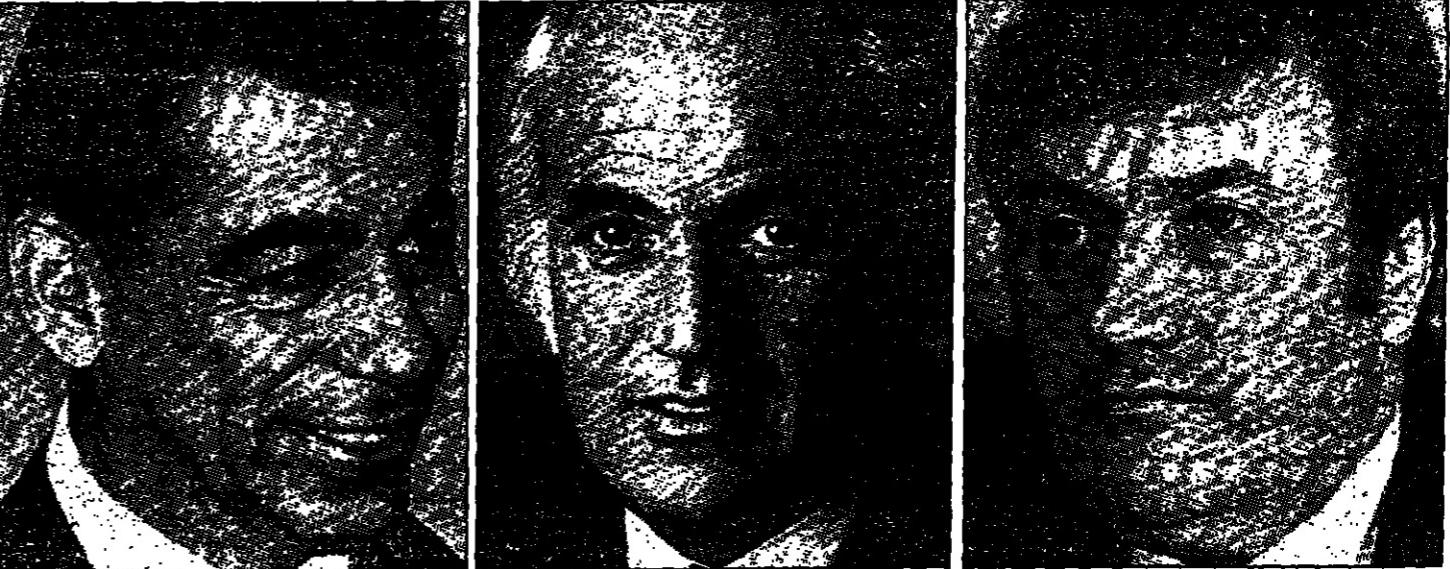
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SHERIDAN MORLEY

FILM BUSINESS

Widescreen, all-action cliffhanger



Financial kingpins of the MGM deal: Owner Kirk Kerkorian (left), Steve Ross, and Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti (right)

Andrew Lycett on the latest, and possibly the largest, film industry merger, which involves the most famous Hollywood names

It works, it promises to be one of the most powerful film production and distribution conglomerates in the world. MGM founder, Louis B. Mayer, would probably approve. Today, Pathé Communications, headed by Giancarlo Parretti, a colourful 50-year-old Italian financier who was once a waiter at London's Savoy Hotel, is set to complete its take-over of Mayer's Hollywood studio, which has become Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer/United Artists.

Ever since he first announced his \$1.2 billion (£706 million) bid for the studio in March, it has been touch and go whether Parretti would raise the necessary money.

He was helped out by Steve Ross, chairman of another media conglomerate — the recently merged Time Warner. Ross agreed to guarantee loans for half the price asked by MGM/UA's billionaire owner, Kirk Kerkorian.

In return, Time Warner gained worldwide distribution rights to the United Artists library of 1,000 films, including *Rain Man*, *The Pink Panther* and *Bond* movies.

Pathé/MGM/UA makes the films which are distributed by Warner and shown on Time's widespread cable network. That is the sort of media equation appreciated by Wall Street. Even so,

Parretti was not helped in his quest for the remaining finance by the four-year prison sentence handed down to him in absentia in April, by a Naples court, for fraudulent bankruptcy. An appeal has been lodged. Various dates for the closing of the Pathé offer for MGM/UA shares passed. Today is the last.

Parretti first came to international attention in 1988 when he bought the ailing Cannon film production and cinema chain from Israeli cousins Menahem Golan and Yoram Globus. He renamed the group Pathé, and moved it to Los Angeles.

From there he set about developing a contemporary worldwide media business. That means

owning film production and distribution (television, cable, cinema exhibition) companies. It is no good making films if the maker cannot show them to the public. Parretti entrusted the production side to the respected Alan Ladd.

Initially, with his partner Florio Fiorino, Parretti concentrated his distribution efforts in Europe. Ownership of the old Cannon company gave him access to nearly 400 cinemas in Britain (in all, around 600 in Europe). Some of these he has recently sold to Italian media entrepreneur Silvio Berlusconi, largely to raise money for his MGM/UA bid.

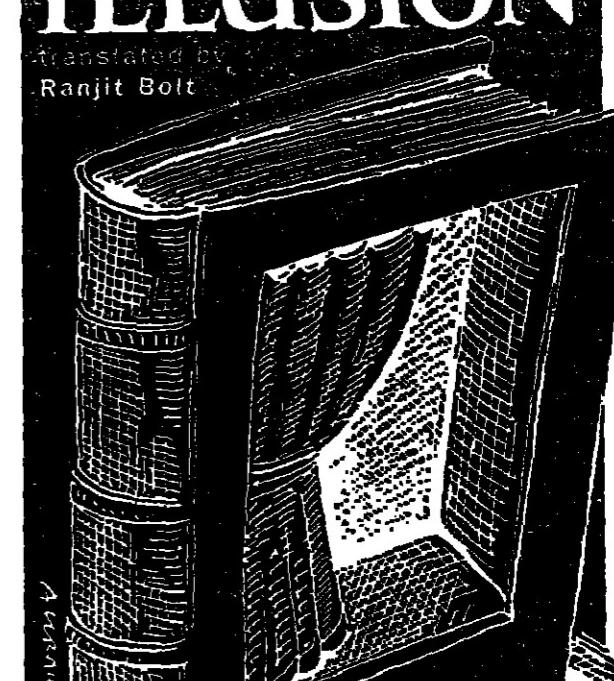
Meanwhile, back in the USA in March, Parretti became the latest in a long line of suitors (after Rupert Murdoch, Christopher Skase's now bankrupt Qintex Corporation and cable-king Ted Turner) to buy Kirk Kerkorian's 80 per cent stake in MGM/UA.

Getting Time Warner in on the deal surprised the rest of the film industry. It was a masterstroke in terms of the media conglomerate Parretti says he wants to create as a "bridge between the US and European entertainment markets". Warner already draws 40 per cent of its revenues from its foreign film distribution and cinema exhibition businesses. It clearly wants to extend its overseas network. One of Steve Ross's first initiatives as chairman of the merged Time Warner was a \$28 million joint venture with Sovexportfilm in two American-style cinema "multiplexes" in Moscow and Leningrad.

This raises the question of whether the cool Ross has his own agenda. What if Parretti has difficulty servicing the loans he has had to raise for his MGM/UA deal? Then Time Warner might step in to take control. Ross has put it on record that he wants to "create within five years the most successful media and entertainment company in the world".

From there he set about developing a contemporary worldwide media business. That means

THE ILLUSION



Steven Beard, Duncan Bell, Dusty Gedge, Rosalind Knight, Sylvestra Le Touzel, Phelim McDermott, Virginia Radcliffe, Stuart Richman, Lee Simpson, Harmage Singh Kalirai, Sian Thomas, Stephen Wafe, Timothy Walker

Directed by Richard Jones
Designed by Nigel Lowery
Lighting designed by Pat Collins

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CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, first broadcast.

APARTMENT ZERO (20:20 Vision, 15): Ponderous psychological drama with a drab film-buff flavour, featuring Colin Firth as a repressed British émigré in Argentina. Directed by Martin Donovan, 1982.

CHECKING OUT (CBS/Fox, 15): Strained black comedy, with Jeff Daniels as a PR man stricken by hypochondria. An inauspicious American debut for David Leland, writer-director of *Wish You Were Here*, 1988.

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (CBS/Fox, U): Robert Wise's science-fiction classic about Klaatu (Michael Rennie), the extra-terrestrial diplomat trying to stop war. Exciting, intelligent; music by Bernard Herrmann, 1951.

DRAGNET (CIC, PG): Failed attempt to parody the TV police series, with Dan Aykroyd as the straight-faced cop teamed with a freewheeling colleague (Tom Hanks). Amusing at first, but the film drives itself into a cul-de-sac, 1987.

THE DREAM TEAM (CIC, 15): Agreeably anarchic adventure of four psychiatric patients let loose on Manhattan. Goblets of semi-detached hang heavy at times, but sprightly performances (Michael Kitchen, Peter Boyle, Stephen Furst) win the day. Director, Howard Zieff, 1989.

FANTASTIC VOYAGE (CBS/Fox, U): Tired characterizations, but the notion of miniaturized doctors rushing through a scientist to operate on his brain is compelling. And the sets are huge fun. Stephen Boyd, Raquel Welch, 1966.

I'M GONNA GIT YOU SUCKA (Warner, 15): Wild send-up of the black-action movies of the Seventies, featuring such luminaries as Jim Brown and Bernie Casey. A first feature for writer-director-star Keenan Wayans, 1989.

THE SICILIAN (CBS/Fox, 16): Michael Cimino's botched life of the Sicilian outlaw Salvatore Giuliano (Christopher Lambert). Stupendous, fusty writing, waywardly acted; at least the landscapes look believable, 1987.

THE UNTOUCHABLES (CIC, 15): Eliot Ness's gangbusters versus Al Capone: an entertaining battle, filled with bullets, blood, thoughtful dialogue from playwright David Mamet, an Odessa Steps parody. Director, Brian De Palma, 1987.

YOUNG EINSTEIN (Warner, PG): In which young Albert Einstein, son of Teutonic apple farmers, discovers gravity and rock 'n' roll. Tiresome, determinedly wacky comedy from Australian satirist Yahoo Serious, 1989.

Tories propose graded poll tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs have drawn up proposed changes to the community charge designed to counter what they describe as its "evil" effect of breaking up large families.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, one of the leading Conservative critics of the poll tax, has proposed that individual members of a family should pay differing community charge rates. The head of a household would pay 100 per cent of the standard charge set by a local authority, the spouse 80 per cent, the first child aged over 18, 60 per cent, the second 40 per cent and the third 20 per cent.

Elderly relatives living with their children would also pay a lower rate, but everyone living in a household, however big, would have to pay at least 20 per cent.

Sir Rhodes and colleagues with whom he has discussed the plan are to submit the idea of a "differential family charge" to the Cabinet committee that is considering the operation of the poll tax. They are to see Mr Michael Portillo, the Minister for Local Government, to urge that the proposal be adopted.

Sir Rhodes said yesterday that his proposal met the main principle behind the community charge — that everyone should contribute to their local services. However, it would prevent the break-up of families with several adult children, who were facing severe pressures from the community charge. In some large families, the bill ran into thousands of pounds.

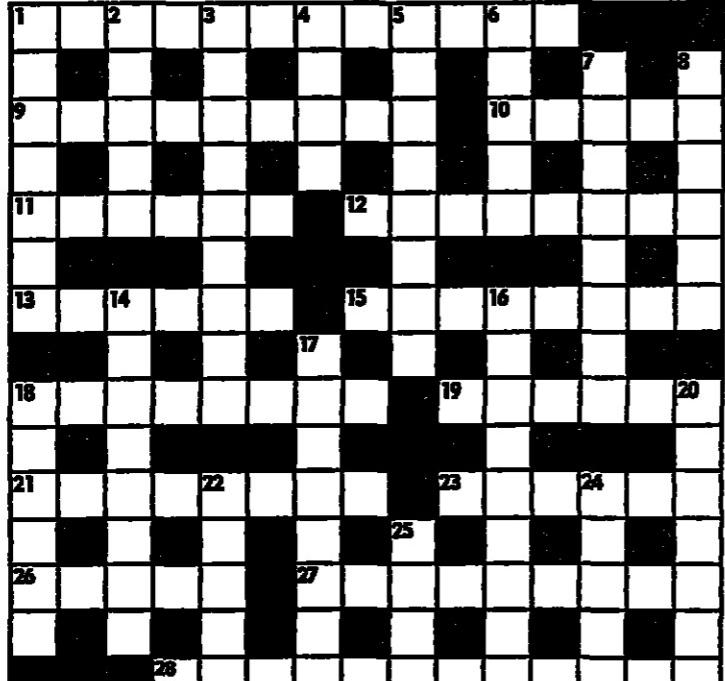
In homes where the head of household could not afford to pay for all his family, and the younger members were on low wages, tension was sure to arise and the children would inevitably leave home. "There are certain to be big rows," he said.

The system also encouraged people to put their elderly relatives into residential homes where they would not be liable for the poll tax.

Sir Rhodes said last night: "We are supposed to be the party of the family and we should be taking deliberate measures to rebuild the extended family. But one of the most disastrous and unintentionally evil effects of the poll tax is that it will inevitably lead to the tearing apart of families. I do not think the Government fully recognises this yet because people are only just beginning to pay the charge."

The Cabinet committee, under Mrs Thatcher, has not yet resumed its deliberations after the Whitsun parliamentary recess.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,314



ACROSS

- It fixes the lines on which transport undertaking is to be run (9).
- Conservative elements watching for a stab in the back (9).
- State incorporating crude oil plant (5).
- Part in drag has Thespian terried (6).
- Minor artist portrays children (5).
- Collection of bones in saint's birthplace (6).
- Accepted golden calf, albeit old copper inside (8).
- Vexatious person can sue in assembly (8).
- For example, I've missed out a bit (6).
- Museum housing Queen Elizabeth and Henry in a gallery (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,313

CREASING STIFLE
COMICAGSEA
PRIMANDOMOUNT
PULICREPL
EQUITYABETTE
EPIZINE
NEPOLEON AROMAL
SMEAR
TUTOR MINORITY
DEA
BLARNEY UNCHAIN
DODGSKIN
OMPOERTHEEIGHT
DRAFTED EIGHT
MATURED CRUSADES

- 23 After hop, game for a drink (6).
26 Take tea in store, perhaps (5).
27 Bottle, being smaller, is short of spirit (9).
28 Asking for money — silver or gold — for a race horse (7-5).
DOWN
1 Padding made in France is sub-standard (7).
2 Jurisdiction for a topless offence (5).
3 Argonaut's battered bark (9).
4 Oriental proverb sounds a hairy one (4).
5 It shows the extent of the Wash (4-4).
6 Where a forger's works go under the hammer (5).
7 Divulged secret code — find solution here (8).
8 Cat has caught a rook — that's where the noise is coming from (6).
14 Force through, using 1 ac (8).
16 Hang on to old car many at heart despite (4-5).
17 Milon complained of the grating on these pipes (8).
18 Apprentice's lack of grip (6).
20 Decrepit ice shed burst open (7).
22 For the time being, the church has no name on it (5).
24 Article on Army's old character (5).
25 Cereal in a sort of tub (4).

Concise crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- DIRIMENT**
a. Nullifying
b. Less by seepage
c. A detailed description
KYBAT
a. The tropical fruit bat
b. A dressed stone
c. The touring-post for rovers
HANEPOET
a. A variety of grape
b. An Anglo-Saxon law court
c. A chimney pot
JUMP-ROPE
a. Skipping
b. The main yard of a booz
c. A canal towng-rope

Answers on page 20

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National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
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North-west England 742
Northeast England 743
Scotland 744
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AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 15

WEATHER

A bright start over England and Wales but by mid-morning showers, some heavy, will be breaking out. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers or longer periods of rain which will continue into the night near north-western coasts. It will be a little cool and rather windy around northern and western coasts. Outlook: Showers and sunny intervals.

ABROAD

MONDAY: (i) thunder; (ii) drizzle; (iii) shower; (iv) rain; (v) cloud; (vi) rain;

TUESDAY: (i) drizzle; (ii) rain; (iii) shower; (iv) rain;

AROUND BRITAIN

SUN RAIN MAX

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GPA still flying high with 59% increase

By GRAHAM SEARLENT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

GPA Group, the world's biggest aircraft leasing company, continued its phenomenal growth with a 59 per cent rise in profits to \$242 million on 88 per cent higher revenue of \$1.96 billion in the year to end-March.

Mr Tony Ryan, the chairman and chief executive, said the leasing subsidiary had won 20 new airline customers over the year, delivered aircraft to customers at an average rate of more than two per week and placed 148 new aircraft for 1990 and future years.

GPA expects to announce this month a substantial deal to lease aircraft to a Chinese airline, which Mr Ryan says, is the first use of a full aircraft operating lease in China and "a major breakthrough in an important market."

The unquoted Irish company, based in Shannon but which accounts in dollars, the currency of the aircraft industry, has not paid tax on profits until now. From this year, it must pay 10 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from \$28.2 to \$41.9. Shareholders, which include Mr Ryan with 8 per cent but are mainly financial institutions and airlines in Japan, North America and Europe, receive a \$12 dividend, up from \$8.75.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, deputy chairman, said this spring GPA would probably seek a quotation before the end of 1991. The most recent private share trade, at \$650 per share, valued GPA at £2.3 billion.

GPA admitted the British & Commonwealth affair could make this more difficult at the moment. "Atlantic Computers has caused some people to tar all leasing companies with the same brush," said a spokesman.

Ryder attacks irresponsible mortgage advertising

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

THE irresponsible marketing of mortgages by some lenders was criticized by Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, at the Building Societies Association conference in Brighton yesterday.

He was particularly concerned about low-start or deferred interest loans which appeared to claim some form of "lasting" monthly savings.

Mr Mark Boale, BSA director general, said the housing market was suffering from a big slump because it had gone through a massive boom. He said: "Prices may stop falling, but there is no reason to expect a significant increase in prices for some time, as prices are currently very high in relation to incomes."

"Even if house prices fall by 10 per cent this year compared with last, they will still be high in relation to incomes at the end of the year."

He added that the optimistic scenario was for falling interest rates towards the end of this year and certainly into 1991. This would be coupled with a falling mortgage rate and house prices beginning to show signs of recovery late next year.

Mr Mick Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation, said the company had given some consideration to acquiring a building society.

Such a move could "certainly see some advantages in being able to offer our customers short-term savings products as well as satisfying their needs for longer-term savings and investment."

Mr Ryder said he had passed to Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, recent examples of offending advertisements. He added: "We all know that the worst examples of hard sell come

from building societies but

from some of your competitors. But I have to say the building societies are not entirely blameless. Loans are a major financial commitment — not soap powder. Customers should not be encouraged to take out loans unless they are fully aware of all the consequences."

Mr Mark Boale, BSA director general, said the housing market was suffering from a big slump because it had gone through a massive boom. He said: "Prices may stop falling, but there is no reason to expect a significant increase in prices for some time, as prices are currently very high in relation to incomes."

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Profits at Reed rise to £302m



Davis: profits and payout news makes good reading

REED International, the publisher, raised pre-tax profits from £27.2 million to £302.0 million in the year to end-March despite difficult conditions in the women's magazines and local newspaper markets in Britain and the American business market (Martin Waller writes).

A final dividend of 9.4p makes a 14p (12p) total.

The launch of *Me* magazine took Reed's market share of the weekly women's magazines from 49 per cent to 60 per cent, said Mr Peter Davis,

Tempus, page 25

the chairman and chief executive. During the year, the group spent almost £930 million on acquisitions, most in the US, raising the proportion of profits coming from outside Britain from 34 per cent to almost 40 per cent. The group aims to reach 50 per cent within two years.

Underlying profits growth for the group was about 9 per cent. Businesses bought over the past year contributed £62 million to operating profits.

JFB profit growth continues with £5.7m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

JOHNSON & Firth Brown, the metals and engineering group, saw a continued advance in pre-tax profits, this time 22 per cent to £5.7 million in the six months to end-March.

Turnover grew 15.3 per cent to £60.2 million, despite the fall in British consumer demand. The aerospace and environmental sectors were particularly strong.

Mr George Hardie, finance director, said: "The advance is down to a lot of hard work and choosing the right direction. We have been driving for more exports." More than 60 per cent of revenues came from exports.

Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 3p. The dividend rises to 1p (0.8p).

The figures benefited from £264,000 interest receipts, compared with £312,000 payments last time. There was a £132,000 extraordinary loss.

Cutbacks from customers in the telecommunications market affected profits at Thomas Bolton & Johnson, JFB's 50 per cent associated company which supplies copper to the cable industry. Profits from associated companies fell to £267,000 (£366,000).

Mr Hardie said the company's product specialization and international spread of markets had enabled it to avoid the worst effects of the economic slowdown.

After all costs have been finalized and paid, the second-half profit and loss account will benefit by about £2 million, subject to tax.

JFB has about £12 million cash. Part will be used to install additional vacuum induction capacity in the Firth Rixon division to meet rising demand from the aerospace industry.

The shares fell ½p to 59½p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Japanese firm to help develop Rolls engine

ISHIKAWAJIMA-Harima, a Japanese heavy engineering company, is to help develop a Rolls-Royce jet engine for use on the 300-seater 777 airliner to be developed by Boeing. It has agreed to participate under a 1985 agreement between the two. Rolls-Royce will start developing the engine soon.

The Japanese company also agreed in 1988 to supply Rolls with turbine fine shafts and other components for the Rolls-designed RB 211 aircraft engines. Meanwhile, Rolls says airlines in China have ordered Rolls-Royce engines to power 13 Boeing 757 aircraft in a deal worth about £80 million.

ABI Leisure ahead 39%

ABI Leisure Group, the North Humber-side caravan maker that came to the market this year, saw pre-tax profits rise 39 per cent to £2.94 million in the six months to end-February.

Turnover advanced 21 per cent to £33.4 million and earnings per share rose 46 per cent to 8.3p. There is no interim dividend, but a final of 3.1p is expected. The shares were unchanged at 130p.

ICM agrees Swiss bid

INTERNATIONAL Colour Management, the computerized colour control systems manufacturer, is recommending a £14.2 million cash bid from Brauerei Eichholz, Switzerland's fourth largest brewer. Terms are 124p a share in cash, a premium of 39 per cent to the market price at close of business on June 5, with a variable rate loan note alternative.

The Swiss have irrevocable acceptances in respect of 52.6 per cent of ICM's equity. ICM shares climbed 28p to 117p on the bid news. Besides its beverage side, Brauenei owns Datacolour and Applied Colour Systems which develop and make products for industrial colour data processing.

Fletcher King falls to £2.1m

FULL-YEAR pre-tax profits at Fletcher King, the surveyor and estate agent, fell 26 per cent, from £2.88 million to £2.12 million, despite a 9 per cent rise in turnover to £9.17 million.

Mr David Fletcher, the chairman, announced a final dividend of 4.7p, making the total payment 1.6p lower at 5p.

The shares fell ½p to 59½p.

Dealerships for Fitzwilson

FITZWILTON, the Dublin investment group, has made two acquisitions through Keep Trust, its wholly-owned motor distribution business. Keep Trust has bought Runway Motors of Bristol, a Toyota dealership, and the former Henley's Rover operation in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The combined net assets bought amount to £2.79 million.

BAE acquires more of R&T

BALLAST Nedam, British Aerospace's Dutch construction business, has bought another building operation from the receivers of Rush & Tompkins which collapsed in April. It has bought the Leeds office and plant and equipment for an undisclosed sum. About 20 Rush & Tompkins employees will be offered jobs.

Organic boost for profits

By PHILIP PANGALOS

STRONG organic growth helped pre-tax profits at Powerscreen International advance 26 per cent to £14.6 million in the year to end-March.

Turnover at the Northern Ireland crushing equipment manufacturer grew 47 per cent to £65.8 million. Organic growth stood at about 38 per cent, although the figures were boosted by acquisitions and the group's increased involvement in environmental and waste management industries.

Earnings per share climbed 13 per cent to 15.5p, while fully diluted earnings rose 19 per cent to 14.5p. The final dividend is 3.59p (3p), making a total of 5.04p (4.2p).

Mr Shay McKeown, chief executive, said opportunities still exist for more significant organic growth. Europe is the company's fastest growing market and accounts for about 40 per cent of business.

Mr McKeown said the acquisition of Royer, the US manufacturer of waste shredding and sludge recycling equipment, consolidated the company's position in North America accounting for about 40 per cent of turnover.

\$200m fund for Europe

A \$200 million fund to provide venture capital to central and eastern Europe was announced by Salomon Brothers, the US securities house.

It is managing the fund on behalf of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a US government agency, and will include \$150 million raised by bonds placed in the US.

The redundancies will cut the support staff to 298.

The US company, which has fallen into trading losses this year after reporting a £488,000 profit in pre-tax profits to £1.27 million for 1989, blamed the "downturn in the electronics and computer peripherals market."

Mr James Bailey, who took over from Mr David Burnett last month as chairman and chief executive, said: "We are determined to reverse the fortunes of Microvitec by slimming it down and making it leaner and meaner. These

Microvitec cuts 65 jobs to stem losses

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

MICROVITEC, the troubled manufacturer of computer colour monitors, has announced 65 redundancies among its support staff as part of a rationalization to save £1 million a year. The redundancies will cut the support staff to 298.

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US property disposal nets \$30m for Power

POWER Corporation, the property developer based in Dublin, has sold its 40 per cent stake in the Two Rodeo Drive retail site in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, for \$30.5 million in cash, claimed to be the highest price paid per square foot for retail property in the US (Martin Waller writes).

The sale is likely to be followed by a deal which will buy out S&W Berisford, the debt-plagued British com-

EARNINGS AND DIVIDEND BETTER THAN FORECAST

Preliminary Results for the year ended 31st March 1990

Turnover and other income £652m
Profit before tax £179m
Pro forma profit before tax £187m
Pro forma earnings per share 43.6p
Dividend per share 10.07p

Extract from the Preliminary Announcement

"The Board of Thames Water Plc has announced preliminary results for the year ended 31 March 1990. The period being reported on includes Thames' first seven months trading as a public limited company. For only the last four of these, the company enjoyed independent status with its own Stock Exchange listing.

As a result of the changes that have taken place, the results for the year ended 31 March 1990 are not directly comparable with those of the previous year, primarily because of changes in capital structure and the exclusion of National Rivers Authority activities from Thames' results in the year under review. However, the prospectus published at the time of privatisation contained a profit forecast for the year. Thames' forecast 'profit before tax' and extraordinary items of £179 million (£178m on a pro forma basis), and a dividend per share of 9.72p. The profit before tax of £179 million (pro forma £187m) for the year to 31 March 1990 means that Thames has exceeded its forecast by a little more than 5%. The Board of Thames are recommending a dividend of 10.07p reflecting the company's progressive dividend policy."

Roy Watts

Chairman



Thames Water Plc, 14 Cavendish Place, London W1M 9DZ

Dealerships
for Fitzwilliam

rees Swiss bid

B.Ae acquires
more of RAE

CUS Organic
boost for
profits

rovitec cuts
to stem loss

property disposi-
\$30m for Powel

New Directus for Angus

ANGUS MacDonald, aged 27, and until two weeks ago a fund manager with Martin Currie, the independent Scottish firm, is launching his own BRI-style business, monitoring the purchase and sale of shares by directors. He believes there will be some interest, citing as an example the sale of 1.3 million shares in Carlton Communications by Michael Green, the company's chairman, in December at 820p each.

The shares are now worth 551p. MacDonald, previously an institutional salesman with Laing & Cruickshank, has set up Directus, which is based in Edinburgh, with Jeremy Salvesen, a member of the Salvesen food family, the only other partner.

McDonald said: "I subscribe to the BRI service and I think it's a brilliant concept, but it's not properly used. Mine will be targeted more at the professional than the private investor and I will include a lot more information such as p/e, yield cover, dividend dates and total director shareholdings so any change can be put in perspective." He already has 20 subscribers, including both his former employers, and wants to have at least 100 within 12 months.

Referring to his system as a method of investment analysis, he argued: "Analysts get the future direction of share prices right 60 per cent of the time, at best, whereas direc-

tors get it 90 per cent right. Seldom do they sell a significant number of shares and then the price goes up." He is charging £2,500 a year for the service, which generates two or three information sheets a day. "That's £5 a sheet, compared with a cost of more than £20,000 per circular at Salomon Brothers," he said.



"Here comes our
dividend"

Change of campus
WHEN it comes to links with the academic world, the City has always been closer to Cambridge than Oxford. But the tables could soon be turned thanks to the efforts of John Morrell, the executive chairman of Baring International, the international arm of the merchant bank. Morrell has been campaigning for a world-class business

school to be established

among the ivy-clad courtyards of Oxford where he, as an undergraduate, once lingered. Morrell, who can frequently be found rowing on the Thames near Henley — presumably preferring it to the Cam — has been rallying his friends in the Square Mile. These include old university chums like Bill Stuttsford, an asset manager at Brown Shipley. Morrell aims to raise money for the new school, which he hopes will have an MBA programme to rival that of Harvard by the end of the 1990s. "Something like this does not come cheap," he said, but he is coy about going into greater financial detail for fear of upsetting the finer sensibilities of Oxford's academics.

THE proposed merger of Payless and Do-It-All, the DIY subsidiaries of Boots and WH Smith respectively, kept those City workers not out on the Epsom Downs yesterday amused for hours. Telephone lines between a number of broking firms were, I'm told, July occupied as suggestions were exchanged for a new name for the combined group. The favourite, thus far, seems to be All Do Less.

Ritblat response
JOHN Ritblat, the usually cool and debonair chairman of British Land, who was left stranded on the dockside at Cowes after the Conrad Ritblat Round the Island Race — when his personally char-

tered hydrofoil left without him — is apparently more at home on the golf course than on a sea-faring vessel. For Ritblat, who was far from amused by my revelations of his weekend antics, has, in a bid to counter what he has interpreted as bad publicity, now let it be known that a recent golfing clash with an unidentified colleague from the property world left him £50 better off. Driving into a bunker at the short 8th and confronted by a cliff of sand, Ritblat, whose stake in British Land is worth £3.6 million, was bet a modest £5 that he would not be able to get out. Proving his ability as a golfer, Ritblat promptly clapped his way out, leaving his opponent still struggling in the bunker. After 10 attempts, the somewhat embarrassed foe finally succeeded — and handed over £50 in cash.

A NEW financial PR firm came into being yesterday — the product of a double act between one-time Robert Maxwell adviser Paul Quade and ex-Mail on Sunday reporter John Rawlings. Rawlings, a Yorkshireman, who switched to the more lucrative world of PR three years ago to establish a Leeds office for Binnis Cornwall, has agreed an "amicable divorce" for his northern office from its parent company. Yesterday, Quade, who will have a minority shareholding in the venture, Rawlings Financial, came on board to run the fledgling London operation.

Carol Leonard

The tough regime behind successful Body building



Anita Roddick: homilies for the shareholders

"The bigger you are, the more respectable you become," says Mrs Roddick. "Nobody believes you are successful unless you are financially successful." The City will put up with no end of whackiness as long as the financial formula in the sector is due to its soaring success and the professionalism of the management team.

Shareholders are used to receiving "The Tree's Prayer", an anonymous Portuguese poem, with their report and accounts. They are used to photographs of the chairman cuddling the managing director. Mrs Roddick's homilies come with most shareholder literature. "There is something magical about companies run by people whose thinking was not something it sees often these days.

To say that Body Shop bucks the trend understates the situation. The company has an approach to business which at first inspection is comparable to the Monster Raving Loony Party's approach to politics. That it is taken seriously and awarded a price-earnings rating grossly in excess of every other stock in the sector is due to its soaring success and the professionalism of the management team.

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It is not worried about the group's Japanese-style rating.

He is not worried about the group's Japanese-style rating. The shares at 450p are on 45 times earnings, having fallen from over 70. He sees at least another six years' growth for the company in Britain and says the business is embryonic overseas.

The Roddicks know the world is waiting for them to fall flat on their moisturized faces and are determined not to. But even they cannot walk on water. The group cannot afford to ignore the competition and must protect its green image at all costs. There are those who believe the company is vulnerable to a change in fashion and some still regard its success as a craze.

But as long as the balance between profits and principles remains, the City will support the Roddicks' baggy trousers and all. Yesterday's open offer was placed by luncheon and even the news that organic growth so far this year is slightly lower than last year failed to dent enthusiasm.

Mr Roddick plays down the culture clash between the City and the company. "They respect us and we respect them even if we don't always agree with each other. We understand the need for the City and we've benefited hugely from the market."

It would seem that the last person not to succumb to the Roddick dream was the now infamous bank manager who refused a loan to the dungareed mum, trailing two toddlers, who wanted to open one little shop.

Gillian Bowditch

strong environmental policy and the success of the franchise. The franchisees are really committed to what we stand for and to the business. It would be uncomfortable to be a franchisee and not believe in what we believe in. Behind it all we are really quite aggressive," he says.

But the group has also been extremely lucky. A pioneer of environmentally friendly retailing, the Body Shop has a credibility envied by companies which have recently

been overtaken by the trend.

Mr Roddick admits the group's success is due to a number of factors. He points to the quality of the products and their retail price, the attractiveness of the shops, the

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STOCK MARKET

New York helps shares cut losses

THE news that Wall Street had closed lower overnight sent fresh waves of nerves into an already-edgy morning in London. When Wall Street opened lower again, London had only one way to go down.

Within half an hour of Wall Street's opening, the FT-SE 100 index had tumbled almost 26 points. But as the American market began to demonstrate renewed resistance, shares in London moved modestly higher. By the close, the FT-SE 100 index was 21.6 lower at 2,538.5. The FT 30 index slipped 11.5 to 1,882.4.

However, selling remained light, perhaps as much due to the distractions of Epsom as to any real confidence in the market at these levels.

Gilts went their own way, for the first time in some days, rather than slavishly following the movement of US Treasury bonds. Their way was also down, with falls of about three-quarters of a point. Dealers reported some selling by overseas investors, but not enough to account for the size of the fall. A more likely reason is economic statistics, including retail prices, due next week.

Salomon Brothers hit the clearing banks first thing with a hefty profits downgrading for Midland Bank. Mr Stephen Lewis, an analyst, has cut his pre-tax forecast for the current year to December from £550 million to £445 million. His forecast for earn-

ings a share drops to 34.6p. The shares, which fell 4p to 300p, are on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 8.8.

Midland made pre-tax profits of £616 million in 1989. Mr Lewis's new estimate comes just four months after his last reduction. But he still thinks that even £445 million may be on the high side and would not be surprised to see Midland report profits closer to £400 million.

Midland's recent price fall has eliminated the premium it enjoyed on the back of its proposed merger with Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, but despite that, Mr Lewis believes Midland's shares are still too expensive.

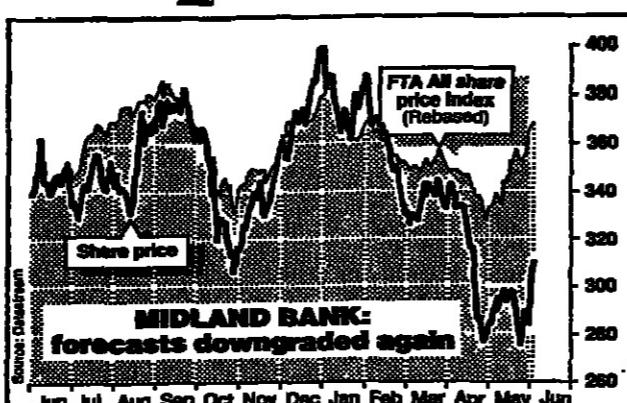
However, Midland's fall was, if anything, better than those experienced by the rest

Trading resumes today in Amber Day, the clothing retailer, after shareholders' approval of its £47 million acquisition of What Everyone Wants, the Scottish discount chain.

Brokers expect the shares to resume at a healthy premium to the 48p suspension price.

of the high street banks. Barclays eased 7p to 409p, Lloyds slid 12p to 297p and National Westminster 9p to 359p.

The latest production figures from Opec and the threat from the Saudis to increase output further give fresh ur-



MIDLAND BANK: forecasts downgraded again

gency to Smith New Court's long-held bearish outlook.

Smith believes that the medium-term outlook for oil prices is also poor, restricting earnings growth in the exploration companies. A price of \$23 a barrel in 1993 could restrict growth to 4-5 per cent a year.

BP fell 6p to 319p, while Shell slid 10p to 456p. Premier Consolidated eased 5p to 90p as Hardy Oil gave up 4p to 181p.

Further consideration of Great Portland Estates' reduced net asset value did more damage among the property investment companies.

Great Portland, which tumbled 33p on Tuesday, appeared to have found a floor at the new level. It added 3p to close at 243p. Others were less fortunate, with the biggest casualty being Greycourt despite the fact that all three of

its large London developments are let. It fell 17p to 399p, making a two-day fall of more than 35p.

British Land slipped 9p but recovered some ground to close 5p lower at 333p.

Kleinfelder Benson is looking for a new asset value of about 530p when the company reports shortly, towards the bottom end of analysts' estimates.

Among the leaders, Land Securities, whose recent results were rather undermined by the GPE figures, fell 9p to 501p with only 1.6 million shares traded compared to Tuesday's 6 million. MEPC fell 7p to 494p, while Hammerson A lost 11p to 704p.

Wates City of London, the Square Mile specialist, finally succumbed to the downward pull and lost 6p to 180p.

Rosehaugh, where at least

Properties, with Mr Duggan — Cabra's chief executive — remaining the beneficial owner. It appears that Mr Rey provided part of the finance for Mr Duggan to acquire his stake in Cabra. Mr Rey is still thought to be interested in acquiring a larger stake in

— Another speculative mover was Seacor A, up 33p to 730p on hopes that the group might sell its interest in the Cetin mobile telecommunications group.

News of an agreed 124p-a-share cash offer for International Colour, the electronics group, lifted the shares 30p to 1,190p. The company is being acquired by Brauerei Eichhof, the Swiss brewing group which already has colour data-processing subsidiaries.

Moving the other way was Bass, down 30p at £10.70, as the market expressed its disappointment at the group's plans for its Holiday Inn subsidiary.

Ashley Group, the retailer,

shed 2p to 102p on the news that it was calling on shareholders for £26.3 million through a one-for-four rights.

Cabra, Cabra closed unchanged at 41p.

Eurotunnel fell 20p to 513p as the market expressed its concern that the Government appears unlikely to put any money into the high-speed rail link on this side of the Channel. Eurotunnel's revenue forecasts do not assume the link will be built, but it would undoubtedly have helped. Underwriters for the equity part of the forthcoming refinancing were also thought to be laying off some of their risk.

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Matthew Bond

BIC calls for abolition of textile import quotas

By MELINDA WITSTOCK

THE abolition of import quotas on textiles and clothing could save British consumers about £1.1 billion a year, an average discount of 15 per cent on all clothing on sale in the high street, according to the British Importers Confederation.

But the BIC, which is calling for "a firm, irreversible commitment" to the phasing out of import quotas over a five-year period on the expiry of the current multi-fibre arrangement (MFA) in July 1991, admitted its proposals would cost 40,000 jobs unless both the European Commission and the Government provide transitional assistance.

The BIC advocates such assistance, which could take the form of direct financial support from Brussels or government-subsidized training

schemes to redirect employment to other areas.

Mr John Faulkner, chairman of the BIC textile committee, said: "The cost of the MFA results in higher prices which are borne by all market partners and ultimately paid for by consumers."

He said: "Producers gain at the expense of consumers and the well off at the expense of the poor."

The Government and the EC favour phasing out the MFA over a period, but the US is trying to introduce further protectionism by bringing the MFA back under Gatt rules, while introducing a stricter import quota system.

The BIC said that if the US scheme is implemented, it will discriminate against British and European exporters, the BIC said.

efficient producers by the allocation of export rights to countries that are independent of the producer's efficiency.

Mr Vanags said the present system violates basic General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) principles and penalizes developing countries.

He said: "Producers gain at the expense of consumers and the well off at the expense of the poor."

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It is only because it has remained concealed from the public that the cost of protection has not become a political topic.

"More can be achieved at a lower overall cost by a system of direct assistance which is positive and cost effective."

A report by Mr Al Vanags, of the University of London's Department of Economics at Queen Mary and Westfield College, demonstrated that the MFA distorts world trade and prevents natural competition by taking away selling opportunities from the most

efficient and the most competitive producers by the allocation of export rights to countries that are independent of the producer's efficiency.

Mr Vanags said the present system violates basic General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) principles and penalizes developing countries.

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Despite saying a month ago that the group had no plans for a rights issue, Mr Tony Butler, the chief executive, announced a one-for-four rights issue at 86p. The terms for preference shareholders are five ordinary at 86p each for every 16 preference shares.

Dismo operates 85 stores and 89 franchised outlets. It made pre-tax losses of £1.2 million in 1989 on sales of £88.9 million.

Ashley's shares fell 2p to 102p on the news. The rights issue is the group's third since

the rest of the issue money will go towards integrating Dismo with Diga, making the largest supermarket chain in Spain.

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CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

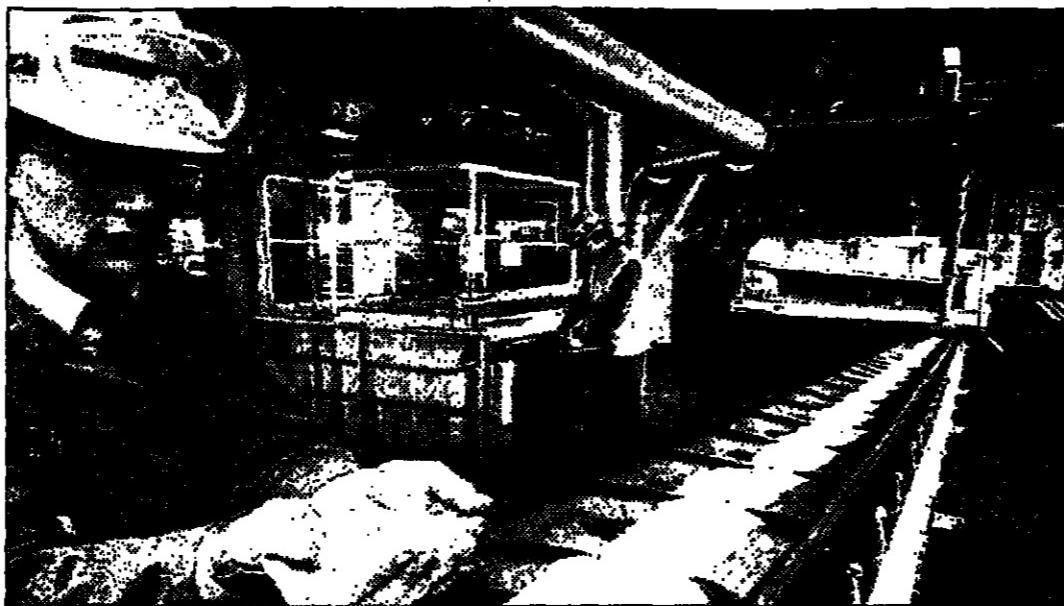
Pioneers who are cleaning up

Chemical engineering arose from the needs of the oil and chemical industries, which together still employ the largest number of chemical engineers. An analysis of graduates from the Cambridge chemical engineering department between 1987 and 1989 shows that 27 per cent joined the chemical industry, 17 per cent were employed by oil companies and only 7 per cent studied for higher degrees. The others went into biotechnology — including the traditional areas of food processing and brewing — minerals processing, business, banking and general management.

Chemical engineers fill many roles in processing industries. They research new products and processes and develop their industrial application. They build and commission installations such as oil rigs. New technologies pioneered by chemical engineers include the development of composite materials such as carbon or glass fibres, and the emerging field of biomedical engineering, in which they help to design artificial hearts, for instance.

Controlling environmental pollution is near the top of the agenda. Cleaning up effluents from the oil, chemical and power industries is among the main challenges for the 1990s, and chemical engineers are leading the search for non-polluting, environment-friendly industrial processes. Every issue is watched over by the Institution of Chemical Engineers, a UK-based

The profession produced by industry is also concerned today with saving the environment, David Rudnick writes



Making it work: catalysts are produced at a Shell factory for the oil, gas and chemical industries

professional body with a worldwide membership of nearly 20,000. The institution believes a public relations job needs to be done for chemical engineering, "the least accessible, and therefore most misunderstood, of the major engineering branches".

The institution's president, Robin Paul, who heads chemicals

manufacturers Albright & Wilson, believes his organization's main problem is "public perception of the industry it serves, which does not recognize chemical engineers' contribution to society and is suspicious of the chemical and oil industry as being environmentally threatening".

He says: "This does not strongly

encourage young people to come into chemical engineering, but I want to turn that perception around and show young people interested in this area and wanting to contribute that they can best do so from the inside, through working in the industry."

Mr Paul accepts there is still scope for improving safety stan-

dards, but he is optimistic that the intensification and consequently smaller size of chemical plants coming into operation will "bring intrinsically greater safety since smaller units give a smaller problem if things go wrong".

Safety and environmental issues overlap, of course. Mr Paul describes chemical engineering as "the green discipline that can think out and achieve environmental advances". He adds: "As a businessman I do not like single-issue politics. The institution will have a broad spectrum of passion. Environmental issues are not as simple as they are portrayed. They are not black and white issues."

The institution's general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, sees the environmental challenge as the prime issue. "Chemical engineering," he says, "can remedy the failings of the past and work for a better future. To ensure that tomorrow's chemical engineers understand their personal responsibility for environmental issues, they form an integral part of our accredited degree course and of the code of ethical conduct we demand from our members."

He too draws a line on environmentalism: "We cannot live on the basis of a Prince Charles organic family routine. If we are to feed the world's growing population, agro-chemicals must be used, and chemical engineering has a major role to play." That role is being played on an increasingly international stage and the institution, Dr Evans says, is adapting.



Trevor Evans: the challenge



Robin Paul: green discipline

We can no longer work by being solely a qualifying body in the UK," he says. "We must be as international as the people we have as members. The institution's products — its training and education courses, conferences, magazines and journals — must all reflect the best international practices.

"We are the custodians of the profession, but we are a business too, with an annual turnover approaching £4 million. We rely on income from our trading activities as publisher, training agency and provider of courses to pay our staff of 75."

"Only 20 per cent of our revenue comes from membership subscription, and the proportion is still falling."

Dr Evans sees the institution performing a balancing act, ensuring a commercial return on profitable activities to pay for the

IChemE

Beryl Edmonds. This is a computer package that provides a guide to the chemical reaction likely to result from mixing two substances. The process consists of running models through a computer to give an answer.

PPDS was developed by the National Engineering Laboratory, but if it is being marketed by the institution. Its clients include BP, ICI and other large corporates.

The institution is becoming more commercially aware, attuned to the spirit of the times. It has also become much more image-conscious. It recently adopted a new logo, a formula showing the institution harnessed to chemistry working to the power of engineering.

Industrialists and academics united

between boardroom and laboratory, the presidency traditionally alternates between industry and academe. The current president, Robin Paul, is deputy chairman and managing director of the chemicals company Albright & Wilson. Last year's president, Professor Geoffrey Hewitt, alternated between the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell and Imperial College, London, before finally settling at Imperial.

This duality symbolizes the institution's role as a bridge between industry and academe, sometimes with research as common ground. John Moss, the institution's industry liaison manager, stands at the interface. He is

proud of the institution's programme of continuing education, the largest in Europe. Between 140 and 150 post-graduate courses, lasting four to five days, are run on specialist chemical engineering subjects.

The institution's mem-

bership has climbed to 19,000, of whom nearly 5,000 are from outside the British Isles. The institution can claim to be the largest chemical engineering body in the world outside North America.

In preparation for 1992, corporate members will be able to register for the title European Engineer (EUR Ing), increasing their chances of working in Europe. The institution has close contact

with the European Federation of Chemical Engineering and participates in its scientific and technical working parties.

Safety and loss — or less

epistemically, accident — prevention concerns chemical engineers everywhere. The in-

stitution's Loss Prevention

Bulletin is gaining international recognition for its articles and case histories on accidents, near misses and suggestions for avoiding repetitions. A recent issue contained articles on "a gas leakage that taught a valuable lesson", a "near miss incident

with a tanker" due to bad labelling, and "caustic solution splashed into filter eyes", stressing the importance of a good work permit system.

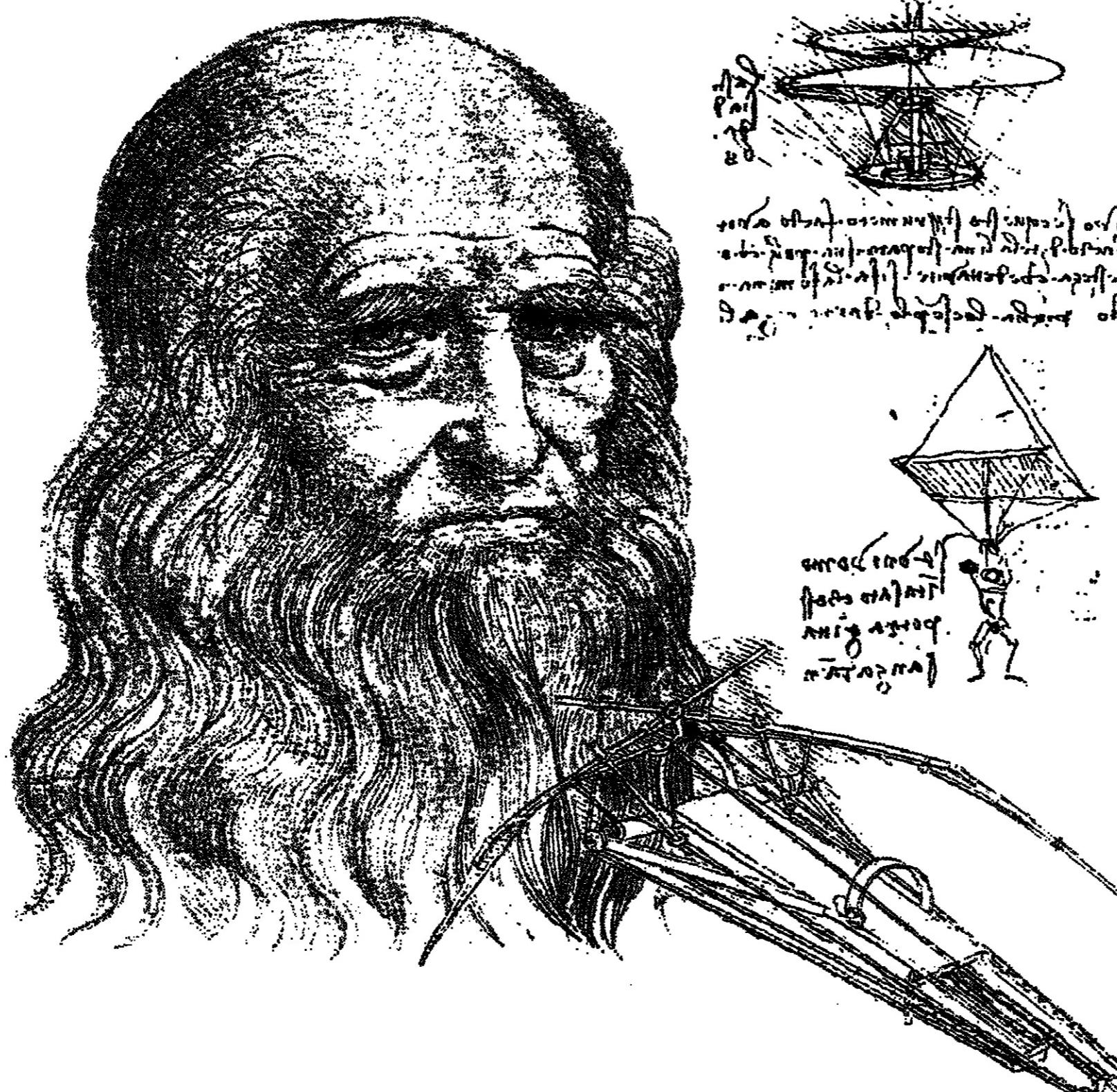
The emphasis on safety is widely apparent. The loss prevention department produces hazard workshop modules, including two engagingly acronymed Hazop (hazard and operability studies) and Hazan (hazard analysis), and there are videos, computer simulations and slide modules suitable for training programmes. Recent videos have dealt with liquefied petroleum gas handling and safer piping.

One of the institution's most interesting programmes is the physical properties data service (PPDS), run by Dr



Officials (from left): Hewitt, Edmonds, Dendy

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On the threshold of a new scientific age

Biochemical engineering, Nick Nuttal writes, holds the promise of environmental improvement and benefits for industries as diverse as medical production and electronics



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AEA TECHNOLOGY

A decision is likely in the next few days on whether Britain is to have an interdisciplinary research centre for biochemical engineering, an emerging field of chemical and process engineering.

The possibility of a national laboratory, to join the handful of other science and engineering laboratories, emphasizes the growing importance of novel organisms and plant and animal cells in the future of everything from pharmaceuticals to pest control.

"We are standing on the threshold of a new age," says Professor Peter Dunnill, of University College London's biochemical engineering department.

As with most developments in chemical and process engineering, there is a demand for promising laboratory developments — in this case, the transferring of part of the genetic code of one organism to give another a novel characteristic — to be mass-produced.

Yet the design and engineering difficulties present enormous technical problems. Traditional pumping, wide temperature variations including reheating and freezing, and the high pressures used in separation can ruin the ability of these organisms or cells to perform as tiny drug or "chemical-producing factories".

Professor Dunnill explains: "If you tinker with an organism, it is often not as strong, or is deprived of a nutrient it needs. If you put the organism into a fermenter,

it can fall to pieces." In addition, proteins produced have the habit of folding. Unfolding them is tough enough in the laboratory but can be enormously difficult on an industrial scale.

Dr George Hill, of Loughborough University, says there are also difficulties in commercially extracting the organism's products, which may be produced internally or externally.

Filtering of air and sterilizing waste products are other challenges to the design of such large-scale plants.

However, according to Professor Peter Dunnill, the possibilities are exciting. The drug thalidomide, produced by a chemical process, caused horrendous defects mainly because of the way it was made. Mirror images, or so-called right-hand and left-hand chemicals, with different biological effects, were unwittingly manufactured.

Biochemical engineering, in which flammable solvents are used, offers the possibility of ending this potentially hazardous effect.

To achieve this UCL will start building an advanced centre for biochemical engineering in October, with £1.28 million from ICI, Shell, Smith Kline Beecham, Unilever and the Government.

Dr Hill says one of the other challenges in biochemical engineering will be the designing of processes and better filtration membranes to extract various proteins and products from the same plant.

In Caen, France, scientists at the Grand National Accelerator for Heavy Ions (Ganil) have harnessed the micro and sub-microscopic hole-punching power of a cyclotron to develop more precise designer membranes. At Loughborough, in conjunction with the medical school, chemical engineers are trying to discover whether human blood vessel cells are able to sieve



Burning issue: Sheffield University's Professor Jim Swithenbank and the advanced incinerator, a 30-megawatt unit, on which he and his team are testing

particles from fluids outside the body. The natural membranes promise to clog less and be more selective.

Dr Hill says: "Some biotechnology companies are losing a lot of product because what they are getting out is so valuable that it does not matter at the moment. But this is likely to change."

Even the electronics industry stands to benefit from these developments in biochemical engineering. Professor Dunnill says:

"Micro-organisms, in trying to detoxify their environment when flooded with heavy metals, produce natural organic semiconductors as a result."

Climbing the precipice of discovery

THE ATTEMPT to generate power more efficiently and cleanly has come under close scrutiny. At Sheffield University, Professor Jim Swithenbank, of the chemical engineering and fuel technology department, sits surrounded by printouts detailing computer modelling tests he is running on power stations and power packs to maximize efficiency and minimize pollution (Nick Nuttal writes).

"The ones in front of me," he says, "are of the Sheffield incinerator, a 30-megawatt unit and one of the most successful of its kind in the world."

His team, which includes a young research student who is an amateur climber, are comparing mathematical models of the incinerator, which burns domestic and commercial waste to heat 10,000 houses and premises in the area, with physical measurements in an effort to improve the process design.

men to make it a convenient source of fuel. The reserves of hydrocarbon in Venezuela alone compare with oil reserves in the rest of the world.

Professor Swithenbank is also particularly excited at the arrival of a Europe-wide scheme called Erofasc — European Research Community on Flow, Turbulence and Combustion, in which chemical engineers and fuel technologists, using advanced computer systems, are linking with test models to improve designs.

Professor Swithenbank believes the spin-off into other areas of chemical engineering will be enormous. "He says: "If you can model combustion, you can model more or less every other chemical engineering process."

A new system, which has been under development by H & G Engineering, of Croydon, Surrey, for four years highlights other developments. Clean Power Generation (CPG) is a patented development of a process in which fossil fuels are turned into a gas by pressurized oxygen, cleaned, then burnt to drive a turbine.

John Griffiths, the company's technology development manager, says the plant, which harnesses proven equipment, can cut sulphur dioxide emissions to a negligible two to three parts a million and oxides of nitrogen to fewer than 10 parts per million.

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offshore structures

first large lift-installed jacket in the UK North Sea — Shell Kittiwake

nuclear waste management

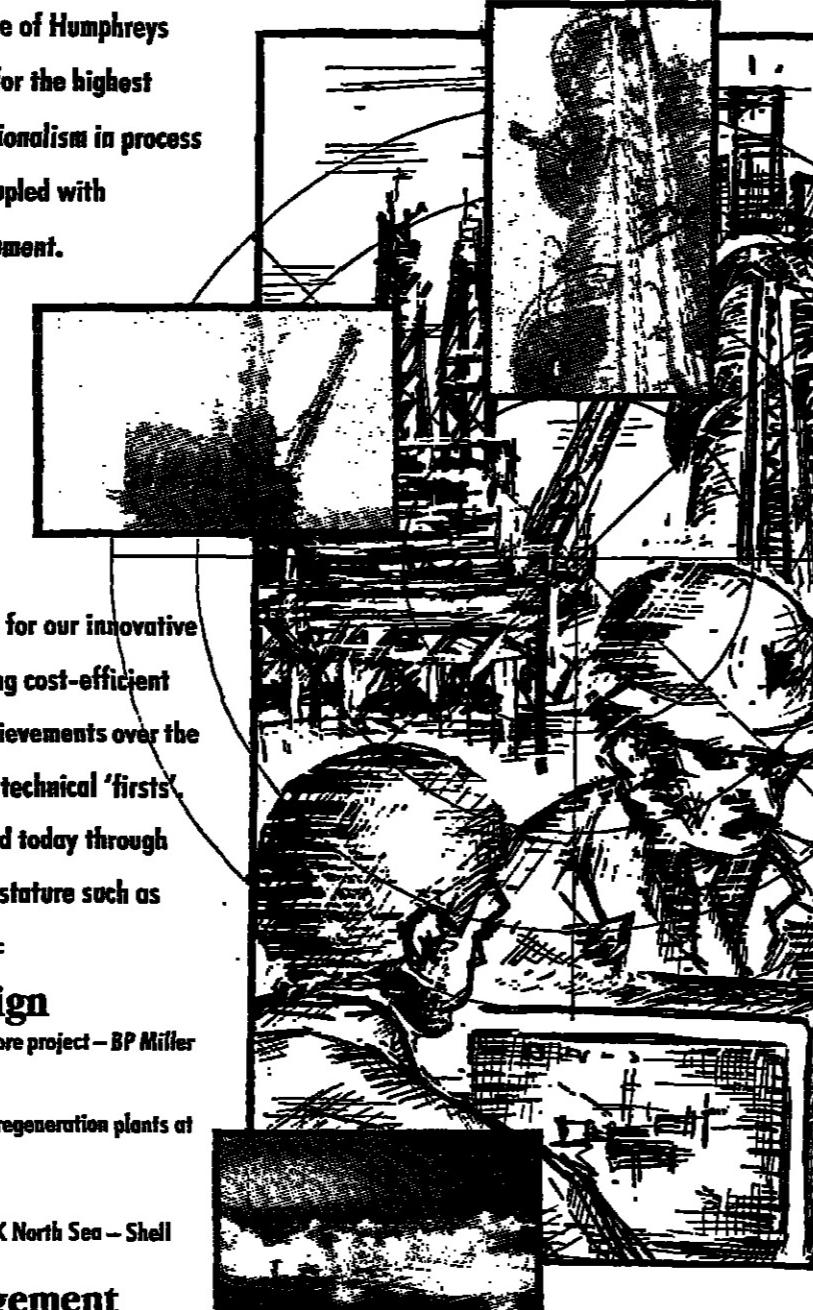
engineering and construction of multi-million pound nuclear waste packaging and encapsulation plant for BNFL at Sellafield

power generation

Clean Power Generation (CPG) — first British process for low effluent power generation from gasified fuels

natural gas

first remotely-controlled gas platforms in North Sea — detail design and procurement — BP Amethyst

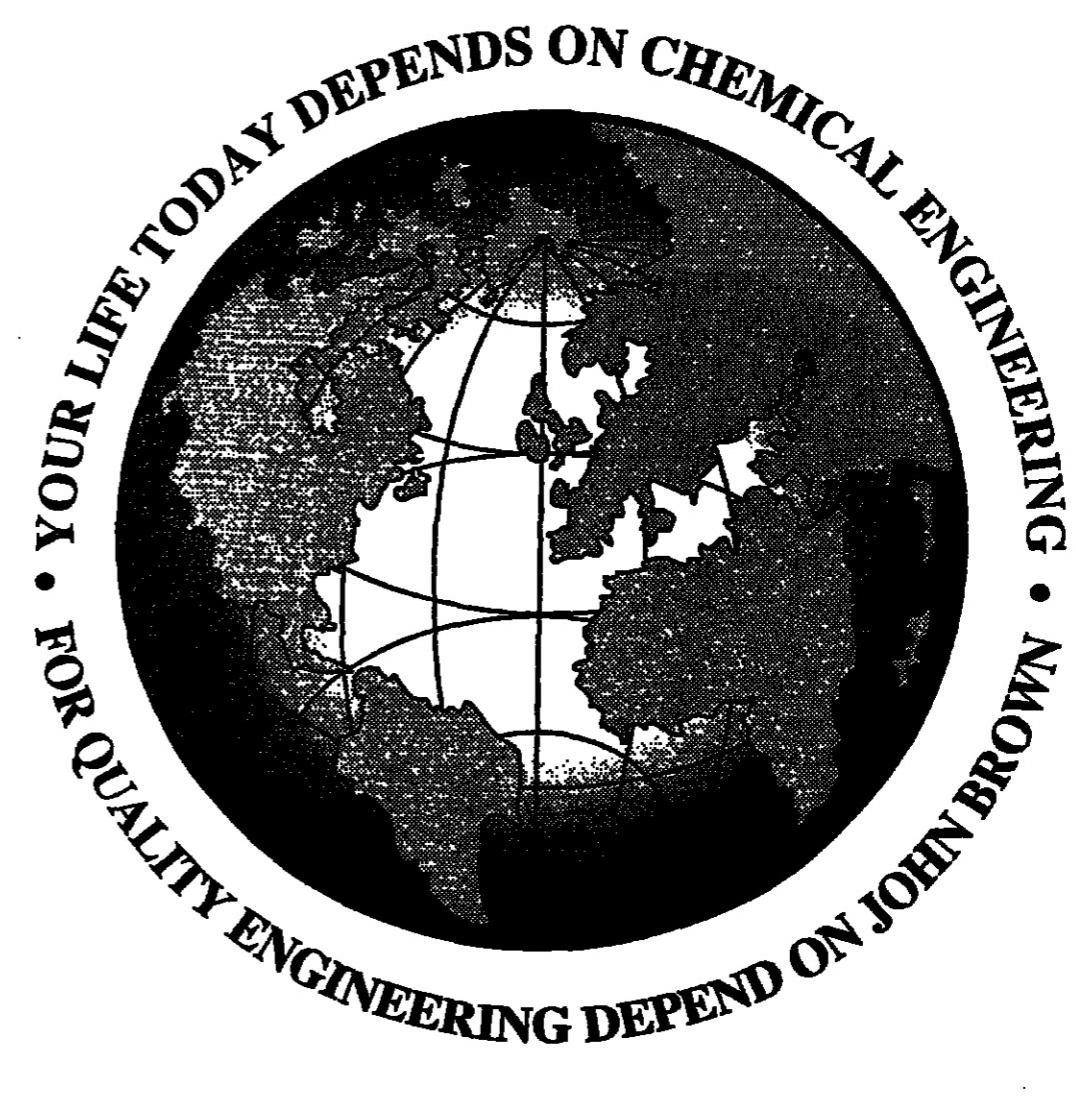


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FOCUS

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING/3

AN INDUSTRY'S future depends on the number and quality of its recruits, but chemical engineering faces a severe shortage in the coming decade (David Rudnick writes).

The Institution of Chemical Engineers' general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, says: "The profession faces the prospect of a 25 per cent decline in school-leavers and potential chemical engineers as a result of demographic change during the same period as industry will be looking to increase their recruitment of new graduate

chemical engineers." Dr Evans sees the problem as long-term. "By the year 2000," he says, "we will have 30 per cent fewer 18-year-olds capable of studying a chemical engineering degree than we do today."

Dr Evans expects that growing industrial concern with the environment is likely to add to demand for "vast armies of chem-

ical engineers in the building and designing of new plants and environmentally secure processes".

The institution is tackling the problem at its source, in schools. Sue Fortuna heads a special schools liaison unit at the institution. She says: "It is not always obvious what a chemical engineer does, so we try to stimulate awareness and excite-

ment among schoolchildren. We want to dispel the image of a hard-hat, greasy profession full of boring people. We are trying to show the varied nature of the job."

The unit is operating on a £100,000 budget this year, supported by industry. Representatives of BP and ICI, the two biggest employers of chemical engineers in Britain, sit on the unit

sub-committee, together with a representative from Esso. Academia is represented by chemical engineering professors from Imperial College and University College London, and from Strathclyde.

The institution puts out a glossy booklet, *Why Chemical Engineering?*, aimed at secondary school teachers and children, and ex-

plaining what chemical engineering is about, including where chemical engineers work, what they study, and — most to the point — how to become one.

The schools liaison unit, to give chemical engineering practical meaning to school children, organizes chemical technology or "bucket chemistry" competitions. The institution's eight regional

branches choose a theme and schools compete to supply the best product. The scheme, pioneered seven years ago in Hull, has proved popular. As an example, pupils have been given rape seed, told to extract the oil and use it to fry an egg.

"Sounds simple," says Mrs Fortuna, "but it is not simple if done on a bucket scale, rather than on a test-tube scale."

The idea is to give children some idea of the scale of chemical engineering.

Go to work on an egg and recruit them young

Nylon that changed the world

In a generation, chemical engineering has transformed people's lives

Social workers in Leeds at the turn of the century made a survey of working women. The findings included the curious fact that an average working girl owned two-and-a-half pairs of underwear. "Langhorne notion now," says Professor Don Freshwater, formerly of Loughborough University and now of Louisiana State University in the United States.

But this intimate area of clothing highlights how, in only a generation, chemical engineering and the process industries have transformed people's lives, he says.

Man-made fibres, from Courtaulds' viscous rayon spun from wood-pulp cellulose to Dupont's nylon discovered as the petroleum industry emerged in the late 1930s, have made clothes cheaper and more affordable, and industrially produced fertilizers and pesticides have made it possible to feed the world's increasing population.

The discovery and subsequent wide-scale manufacture of drugs, including aspirin, penicillin and, more recently, specialist pharmaceuticals have boosted the quality of life.

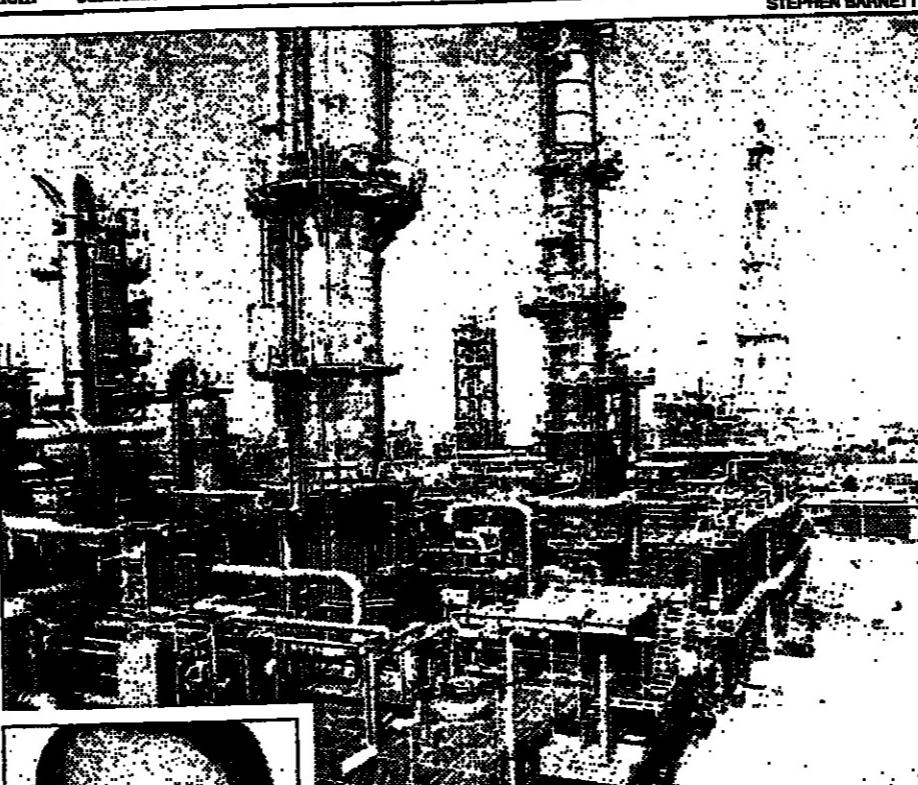
Plastics, from ICI's polyethylene to polyurethane foams and thermoplastics, have transformed everything

from wrapping for conserving foods to lightweight materials for the building and transport industries.

The design and development of power stations, whether nuclear, coal gas or oil, have made modern living comfortable. Professor Freshwater says the tenacity and vision of one Briton laid the cornerstone philosophy for what was to become chemical engineering and the process industry. George E. Davis's *A Handbook of Chemical Engineering*, published in 1901, described how scientific breakthroughs in the laboratory can be applied to industry.

Mr Davis, appointed an inspector under the 1873 Alkali and Chemical Act, understood the fundamental rule that "no matter what the process or chemical being made, the process can be split into a basic series of operations". Professor Freshwater argues: "This was a tremendous step forward. It generalized the whole approach to chemical technology and laid the foundation for the industry to expand in a way hitherto not possible."

It required, a Fleming to discover penicillin and a Carruthers at Dupont to realize the possibility of certain carbon chains from petroleum for making nylon.



Acidic production: BP's acetyl plant at Hull. Left: John Cox, of the Chemical Industries Association

enzymes have fallen into the chemical engineer's tool kit to speed up reactions and create substances under conditions that might otherwise require complex chemical reactions or extraordinary temperatures.

At the same time the chemical engineer has been challenged constantly by the need to ensure that the social costs of vast chemical plants and processes, fraught with potentially hazardous consequences for workers and the environment, are minimized.

The growing amount of European Commission and government legislation on the environment will keep Britain's chemical engineers busy. This view is supported by the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) in its publication, "The Way Ahead", its programme, "Responsible Care",

NICK NUTTALL

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 7 1990

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Learning to live with a poison planet

After public anxieties, special research laboratories are being set up to study the effects on people of food additives, pesticides and industrial chemicals, Pearce Wright reports

The study of poisons is probably the oldest science in the world, traceable back even further than the beginnings of astronomy. Under its modern name, toxicology, the science is emerging as a key science of the next century.

That importance is recognized in plans to establish university-based super science laboratories, or interdisciplinary research centres (IRCs), for studies of vital strategic importance. They include a £10 million IRC in the mechanisms of human toxicity, to be formed from the Medical Research Council's toxicology unit with Leicester's university's departments of medicine and biology.

The plan reflects the health and safety anxieties of the public about the growing use of drugs, food additives, pesticides and industrial chemicals.

Although the latest estimates show that more than 70,000 synthetic chemicals are commonly used throughout the world, and that 500 new ones are introduced each year, a reminder that nature's poisons can be more potent than anything man-made came last week when a ban was placed on shellfish taken from Britain's north-east waters that were polluted by toxic algae.

Yet the study of precisely how the natural or man-made poisons harm living cells is a relatively young field of research. The biological action of only a few of the toxins is well understood.

Describing the goal of long-term research in toxicology, Dr Tom Connors, director of the MRC Toxicology Unit at Carshalton, Surrey, says: "If a mechanism of toxicity for a particular substance is properly understood, the possibility exists of designing an antidote to a poison or an analogue of a potentially useful compound without its hazardous side-effects."

Inevitably, the subject also raises the controversial issue of animal testing. In the past mice were sacrificed in the cause of medical research so that men did not die. Advances in understanding how brain damage might be caused by agents that have come under recent suspicion as neurotoxins, or as carcinogens in occupational and environmental pollutants, are emerging from new techniques of analysis, pioneered at Carshalton, that avoid animal studies.

Dr Connors says: "The new IRC will move research directly into studies of the effects in people of exposure to the myriad of chemical, rather

than extrapolating from results of animal experiments into the likely effects on humans."

The pitfalls confronting the toxicologist are illustrated by the unpredictable and bewildering behaviour of substances in the body, whether accidentally or deliberately swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

Dr John Timbrell, senior lecturer in toxicology at the School of Pharmacy, London University, sums up the hazards of toxic substances, saying: "There are no safe drugs, only safe ways of using them."

For instance, a couple of tablets of paracetamol, the successor to the aspirin as the popular painkiller, will dispose quickly of everyday aches and pains. Yet a dose of 22 tablets will take longer to act, and dispose of you permanently after a week with fatal liver damage.

The explanation is based on the existence of two pathways, or biochemical processes, in our body by which it can dispose of paracetamol.

Once the mechanism of paracetamol poisoning was unravelled, biochemists designed an antidote based on a substance called N-acetylcysteine, to be given either orally or intravenously within 10 to 12 hours.

The way the lethal process is triggered in an overdose, creating a by-product that poisons the liver, is described by Dr Timbrell in an *Introduction to Toxicology*, a fascinating non-specialist guide to the mysteries of poisoning, particularly in explaining toxicogenes, which are reactions after exposure with substances already in the body that then yield a life-threatening by-product.

Some conundrums that face the toxicologist border on the bizarre. An antibiotic called rifampicin, as well as neutralizing bacteria, has been found to speed the absorption

STEPHEN MARKESSON



Dr Peter Farmer (right) at the MRC toxicology unit

Scientists are to test the fundamental assumption in cosmology that gravity makes the Universe look the way it does

TO SAY that the Universe contains galaxies and is expanding is to sum up in a sentence most of the incontrovertible facts of cosmology. Cosmological data — the exact rate of expansion, the precise distribution of billions of galaxies across the whole sky, the locations of the faintest and most distant celestial objects — are hard to come by, which gives little firm ground to build cosmological theories upon.

But in today's *Nature* magazine, Dr Edmund Bertschinger, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, along with two colleagues, explains how experiments now in the offing will be able to test what is probably the fundamental assumption in cosmology — that gravity is what makes the Universe look the way it does.

In the early days of the expanding Universe, so standard thinking goes, there was a little bit more material in some places than others; the excess gravity of these denser places attracted more material to them and gradually galaxies formed out of the material that clumped together.

unavoidably show up as small place-to-place temperature variations in the modern microwave background.

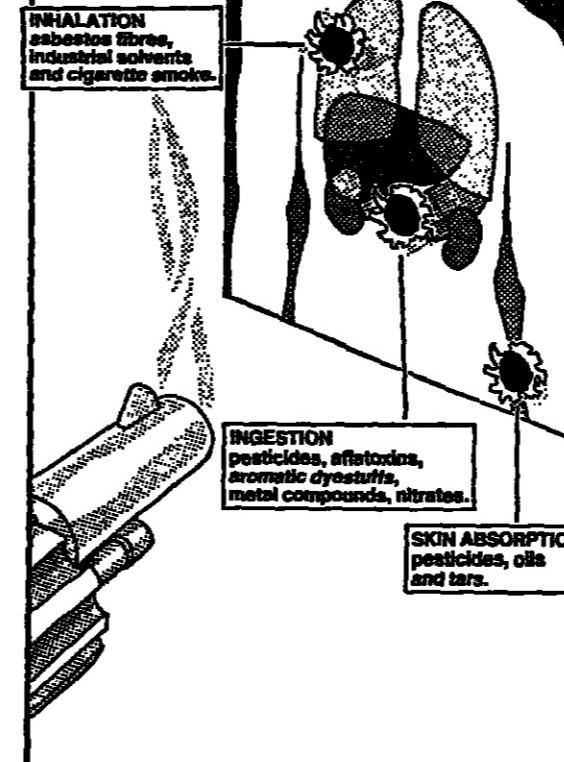
Unfortunately, this is not quite as good as it sounds.

Although there is a precise connection between the original lumpsiness and present-day variations in the background radiation, the process by which the lumpsiness turned into galaxies is so complicated and messy that measurements of the background variations can be at best only a loose constraint on theories of galaxy formation.

Dr Bertschinger, along with Dr Krzysztof Gorski and Dr Avishai Dekel, proposes a much more direct test, making use of a peculiar structure in the sky which Dr Alan Dressler of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, one of the seven astronomers who discovered it, has called the Great Attractor.

Three years ago, Dr Dressler and his colleagues, surveying the positions and velocities of hundreds of galaxies in the vicinity of the constellation Centaurus, were surprised to discover that their galaxies shared a wholesale motion, of thousands of kilometres per second, towards one point in the sky.

The fact that galaxies are moving around with quite substantial speeds was nothing unusual, but a group of



SIGHTS OF CANCER ATTACK

FINDING THE DAMAGE

NEW SCREENING METHOD
A new method of molecular dosimetry for screening individual human cells, by gas chromatograph-mass spectrometry selected ion recording or GC-MS-SIR, shows the precise exposure at which damage can start from concentrations measured in parts per trillion.

1 In trials, human blood cells are used to "fingerprint" damage from exposure to ethylene oxide, a component of car exhausts, cigarette smoke or industrial sites. Other tests are screening cells from placenta, liver and lung tissue.

2 First, elaborate laboratory processes taking three days are done to obtain pure extracts of DNA and other protein blood products for analysis.

3 Microscopic samples are injected into the machine for analysis to find if it contains the types of cancerous residues or biological molecules which would be induced by exposure to a chemical carcinogen.

4 Molecules to be analysed are transformed into an ionised, or electrically charged, state to give a beam of particles which can be manipulated by electromagnetic fields with their characteristics measured by electronic detectors.

5 A beam of molecules is accelerated through the mass spectrometry column and separated into streams corresponding to their electrical-charge-to-mass.

A beam of molecules is accelerated through the mass spectrometry column and separated into streams corresponding to their electrical-charge-to-mass.

They have perfected a version of the scheme for detecting the condition called delayed neuropathy specifically for testing and screening the organophosphate type compounds that are used widely as pesticides.

The advance should play an important part in moves to get rid of the animal test devised in 1927, the LD50 test, that has tarnished the image of hydrazine and other organophosphorus compounds as chemical warfare agents and pesticides.

Apart from the reports of

the two major disasters, much of the experience of the syndrome has come from successful treatment of attempts of suicide with insecticides and from accidental long-term occupational exposure.

● *Introduction to Toxicology* by J.A. Timbrell is published by Taylor Francis at £19.95.

Search for a space thumbprint

hundreds of galaxies would normally be expected to contain as many moving in one direction as in any other.

The idea of some unknown Great Attractor tugging galaxies towards it across millions of light years was hard to swallow and more observations were made.

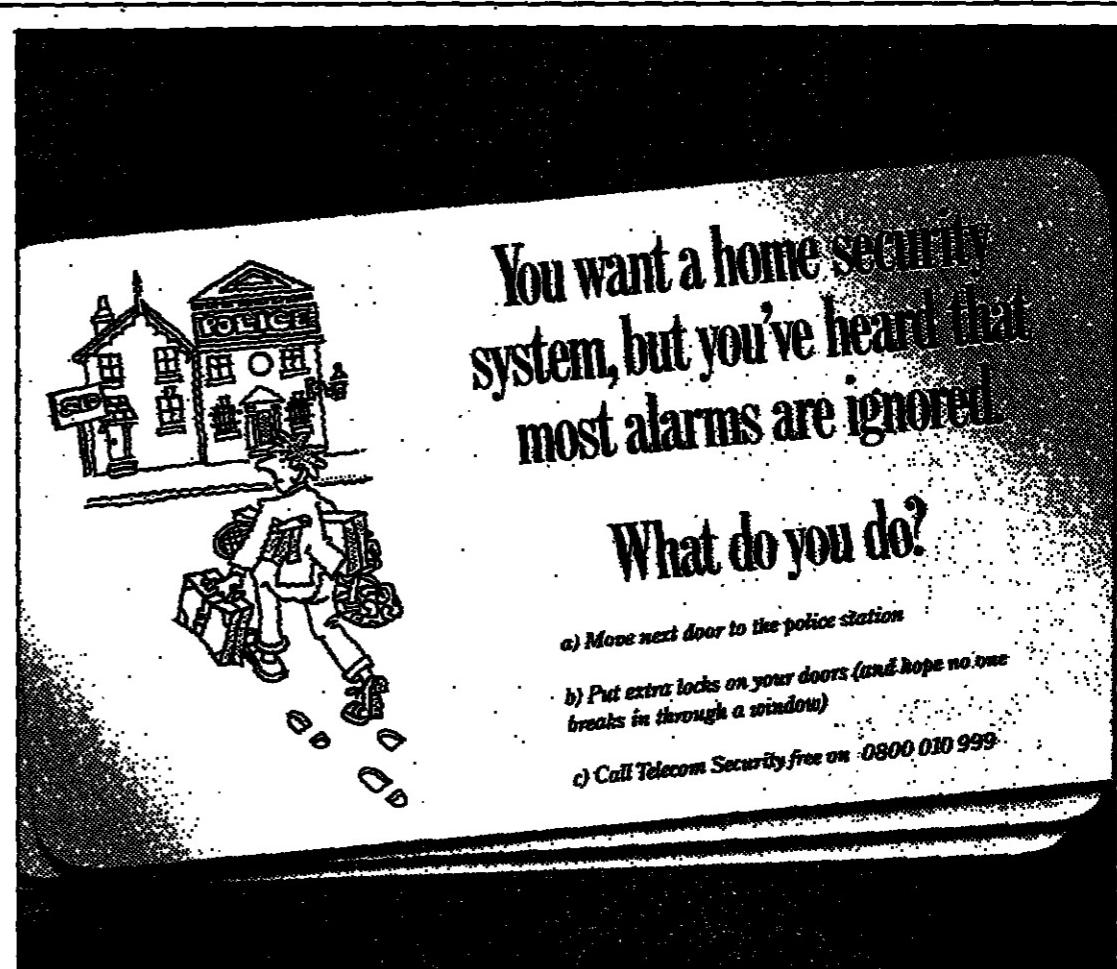
But in the May 1 issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*, Dr Dressler and some of his colleagues published two more papers confirming the reality of the Great Attractor and charting its position in space more exactly than before.

Armed with this more complete set of observations, Dr Bertschinger, Dr Gorski and Dr Dekel realized that the Great Attractor is so big that it should have left its own particular thumbprint on the cosmic microwave background, big enough to be distinct from all the overlapping small variations associated with individual galaxies or clusters.

In their report in *Nature*, they show that experiments now being designed to look for microwave background variations should be able to see the Great Attractor's tell-tale mark. If Dr Bertschinger's argument is correct, the thumb-print must be there.

Bertschinger's proposed test is therefore a test of the underlying principle that gravity is what creates cosmic structure. If the thumb-print is not found, much of the past 20 years' of cosmological theorizing will have to go.

The fact that galaxies are moving around with quite substantial speeds was nothing unusual, but a group of



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DAVID LINDLEY

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Microbes save us from methane

Methane should be hitting the headlines. Ten times more potent than carbon dioxide at exacerbating the greenhouse effect, its concentration in the atmosphere is increasing at an unprecedented rate.

The threat methane poses to the climate would be worse if it were not for the activities of methane-digesting bacteria.

Since 1800, the concentration of methane has increased by 150 per cent, whereas the carbon dioxide total has climbed just 23 per cent.

Although still only a trace gas, the atmosphere contains 1.7 parts per million of methane, compared with 350 of carbon dioxide. But the concentration of methane, although small, has risen from a level of 0.65 in 200 years.

If the trend of an 0.8 per cent annual rise continues, global warming will be almost twice as rapid as expected from increased carbon dioxide.

Methane comes from rice paddies and from cattle and sheep as a by-product of grass-fermenting bacteria in the animals' stomachs. It is released by the type of slash-and-burn agriculture that is devastating the world's rainforests.

A large amount is exuded from natural sources: peat bogs, swamps and marshes. Estimates of methane output from particular sources are vague. To make matters worse, new sources are constantly being identified. The discovery that insects such as termites produce methane in their guts was a talking point in the Eighties, as was the methane budget of temperate and tundra wetlands.

In 1988, Dr David Lowe, from the Institute of Nuclear Sciences in New Zealand, and colleagues suggested that the burning of fossil fuels

Bacteria may help to keep rising gas levels under control, Henry Gee reports

added significant amounts of methane to the atmosphere.

New statistics from the Department of the Environment show that 30 per cent of Britain's methane emissions come from cattle and sheep, whereas deep coal mining come a close second, at 29 per cent.

Landfills exude 20 per cent and gas leaks 10 per cent. However, the accuracy of the British inventory is exceptional — inventories are badly needed for agriculture-dependent developing countries.

While the methane that gets into the atmosphere is a net contribution, much less is known about how the natural world regulates it.

"There is more to the methane story than simply the production of methane and its transport to the atmosphere," Dr Gary King, from the Institute of Genetics and Ecology at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, says. "We have to understand both sides of the coin."

From studies of the delicate interplay between oxygen and methane in natural wetland, reported in today's *Nature* magazine, Dr King concludes that up to nine-tenths of the methane produced in wetland may never leave the bog. Methane-digesting bacteria oxidize the gas before it has a chance to escape.

These bacteria are active during the daytime, when photosynthesis by wetland algae increases the oxygen supply. Dr King made the

connection with the finding that wetlands exude methane at night.

Methane in wetlands is a waste product of bacteria called methanogens that live in watery places with abundant organic matter but no oxygen, such as wetlands and the mud of rice paddies.

The methane bubbles out through the stagnant water overlying marshland mud or is transported through plant roots. What happens next is more complicated and depends on the amount of oxygen in the top two millimetres of the mud surface, near the mud-water interface.

In daylight, microscopic green algae at the interface harvest sunlight to gain energy, making oxygen as a by-product. This oxygen is seized by bacteria that use it to oxidize organic matter such as methane, made by the methanogens in the oxygen-free parts of the sediment.

"The bulk of methane production never makes it to the atmosphere," Dr King says. "So what we see bubbling up through the mud is the small amount of methane not harvested by the wetland bacteria.

This all changes at night. Without sunlight, algal photosynthesis shuts down and oxygen tension in the sediment plummets to levels that cannot sustain oxidative bacteria. So methane escapes unimpeded into the atmosphere.

This sharp contrast between night and day, so dependent on critical oxygen concentrations, can be seen in many chemical systems in natural habitats, Dr King says.

Bacterial trading in nitrates, phosphates, hydrogen sulphide and nitrous oxide — another trace greenhouse gas — all rest on an oxygen debt knife-edge.

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Death in the rainforest: tree clearing adds to the methane levels

THE largest ever scientific collaboration between two countries is being suggested by the United States. Last week it asked the Japanese to invest more than a billion pounds in a project to build a giant superconducting supercollider 25 miles south of Dallas that will cost nearly £5 billion.

The supercollider, which will require the building of a 34-mile tunnel, will be used to collide electrons and their anti-matter equivalents, positrons, at huge energies around an elliptical course.

During the collisions the combined energies of the electrons and positrons are transformed into short-lived particles of enormous importance to scientists. The supercollider, which is planned

to go into operation in 1998, will be lined with two rings of 10,000 superconducting magnets that will focus the atomic particles into a needle-thin beam.

It is the holy grail of particle physics — an attempt to recreate particles believed to have existed during the first instant after the Universe was born and provide important information on the nature of matter and energy.

In return for such an investment, Henson Moore, deputy secretary of energy and head of a delegation in Tokyo last week, said Japan would get a management role in the supercollider.

Instead, they are likely to want the US to consider investing in European plans for a Large Hadron Collider, which will produce 10 times the energy of the existing CERN accelerator. This is expected to cost a relatively modest £600 million or so and may use newly discovered high-temperature superconductors with the possibility of providing industrial spin-offs. The American supercollider will use the older type of superconductors.

As with many a huge project, the cost of the Texan supercollider keeps rising — most recently from £3.5 billion to the current £4.7 billion. While the US government is expected to contribute nearly £3 billion of the cost and Texas more than £500 million, it is hoped other countries will help with the funding. The costs rise as the need for ever higher energies increases in order to continue the search for what some describe as the key to the creation of the Universe.

The merit of the project is a matter of argument both in America and Japan, which has its own plans for a collider. Critics have described the

project as a behemoth, arguing that the potential benefits cannot justify the cost, which may starve smaller projects of funding. It is also an immensely expensive gamble, they say, as it is just possible that little of scientific importance may be discovered.

The choice of Texas has also given rise to wry grins about the state that once again must be seen to have the biggest and most expensive version of everything.

But the American delegation hopes an investment by the Japanese may be a way to ease tensions over technology trade between the two countries, although Japanese analysts believe any investment would be on a smaller scale.

MATTHEW MAY

How to keep your staff at a distance

Britain's first IT teleworking centre will open in Nottingham this month

BRITAIN'S first information technology teleworking centre opens in Nottingham this month with the aim of exploring the larger staff pool and lower salary costs in the Midlands and North.

Frontline Nottingham, a subsidiary of Frontline Initiative, aims to hire experienced and trainee IT staff to telework for South-east companies experiencing difficulties in recruiting staff.

One advantage is that firms can employ people who are unable to commute to a central office, such as disabled people or single parents.

ICL has employed staff on this basis for the past 20 years, although many IT firms allow staff to work from home on an informal basis. British Telecom says it may formalize the process and introduce telework contracts.

FI Group, the IT services company which pioneered the telecommuter model 27 years ago, when it saw the potential to employ women who had left permanent employment to have children, says it now wants to open teleworking centres in the North.

It initially employed most IT staff at home, but more recently has been setting up work centres, mostly in the South-east, to overcome the problems of isolation and space in the home.

Teleworking is also taking off in the United States and many of the largest IT employers are taking the concept to its logical conclusion and beginning to employ staff to work remotely from other countries, where salaries are lower and there is an abundance of skilled staff.

India has attracted many American IT companies and some British firms have been lured. London Underground, the Britannia Building Society and the Port of Felixstowe have recently sent systems-development work offshore.

Yet there are still few UK firms taking advantage of teleworking. One reason given for the slow take-up by employers is that the economic slowdown is leading firms to cut back on staff.

LESLIE TILLEY

Cost of the secrets of energy

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MATTHEW MAY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Thirty-six hours after the larvae of the American screw-worm fly had hatched on a wound on a new-born Friesian calf in Libya, Gary Yates, a British livestock officer working for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), noted they had burrowed "a hole in which you could sink a Havana cigar".

Mr Yates went to North Africa last May, after two Libyan postgraduate students at Liverpool University had shown their professor samples of some unknown larvae which were beginning to affect cattle and other livestock near Tripoli, the Libyan capital. The entomology department of the British Museum identified them as the American screw-worm fly, or *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, which had never before been found outside the Americas.

The migration of what has been described as "America's most dangerous livestock pest" is now having dramatic political consequences. The United States, where the screw-worm fly was endemic until 30 years ago, is the only country with the technology to combat it.

But Colonel Gadaffi's Libya is still beyond the pale as far as Washington is concerned. President Bush had to pass a special order which will allow US officials to circumvent his country's Trading with the

An outbreak of screw-worm fly in Libya may destroy East Africa's wildlife, reports Andrew Lycett

ENEMY ACT AND SHIP millions of specially irradiated sterile male screw-worm flies to Libya. Once there, they will be released to mate and so interrupt the breeding cycle of the larvae-laying females.

Two-and-a-half times the size of an ordinary house fly, the blue-green female of the screw-worm species lays her eggs, which grow into larvae, on the moist exposed parts of animals. Eyes and gaping wounds are particularly vulnerable. Occasionally, as its chilling Latin name implies, the fly also infects humans. In Libya about 2,000 livestock cases and 20 human cases have been reported.

The real danger is that the screw-worm fly could quickly spread in North Africa, the Middle East and even Southern Europe. The fly likes warm, humid conditions and can travel up to 62 miles a day



The killer: never before detected outside the Americas

in search of a new host. Mr Yates, who worked with the British colonial service in Kenya, fears that "it could shoot up the Nile", if it reaches Libya's neighbour, Egypt.

Most at risk are herds of wild animals, which do not have access to veterinary care. Until the pest was eradicated, mortality among deer in Texas was as high as 80 per cent. "We could see the decimation of East Africa's wildlife," Mr Yates says.

Pesticides can do a limited job of countering the fly. Pesticides can do a limited job of countering the fly.

Biological control — releasing the sterile males — is much more effective. However, the only centre in the world which rears the irradiated flies is in Mexico. The plant is run by a special US-Mexican Commission and produces up to 250 million flies a week. The Gadaffi connection caused a hold-up since the United States still accuses Libya, which it bombed in April 1986, of being a terrorist state.

Idris Jazairy, IFAD's Oxford-educated president from Algeria, helped overcome this problem by presenting the

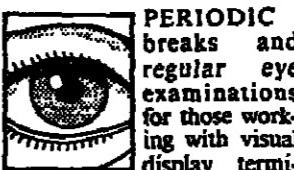
threat to livestock and humans as North African and regional rather than specifically Libyan. President Bush's special order maintains the fiction that the irradiated flies will be sold to a UN agency.

IFAD has taken the lead in identifying the screw-worm problem. It will shortly begin a £1.7 million pilot eradication programme, which will involve four million sterile male flies a week being flown in from Mexico. But formidable practical difficulties remain.

Until now, the flies have only survived in pupae form for up to 17 hours. The journey from Mexico to Tripoli is likely to take longer. The US pumps hundreds of millions of dollars into agriculture in neighbouring Egypt. Would it have put this at risk to get at Gadaffi?

Most likely, the pest arrived uninvited with a cargo of sheep from Uruguay in March 1988. The United States is clearly concerned that the fly has broken out of continental America. It is doing everything it can to expedite the legislative changes necessary to ship the flies to Libya. Meanwhile, the fly's name has subtly changed. The adjective American has been dropped, and the pest is now referred to as the new world screw-worm.

Looking to the future



PERIODIC

according to two cosmonauts. "If we could have gotten together earlier, we would already have built an international observatory on the moon and we would be flying to Mars right now," Aleksei Leonov, the first man to walk in space, said in Boston last week at the opening of a Soviet space exhibit. Mr Leonov and fellow cosmonaut Valentin Lebedev, who lived in space for 211 days aboard Salyut 7 in 1982, said that, while the superpower competition initially spurred technical achievements, it eventually proved counterproductive. But both men support current discussions between the US and the Soviet Union to launch a joint-manned mission to Mars.

A perfect copy

THE Japanese Government has given 37 Japanese manufacturers the go-ahead to mass produce digital audio-tape (DAT) recorders which can make virtually perfect copies of compact discs. JVC is expected to be first in the Japanese shops with a £400 DAT machine later this month. The new technology has suffered years of delay because of opposition by companies producing CDs concerned about copying and a possible fall in sales of the expensive CD. Most existing DAT decks on sale in Europe and Japan have special devices in them to prevent true digital copies being made by converting digital signals into analogue and back again, losing some of the high quality

Planting trees

BRAZILIAN scientists have a plan to plant 10 billion trees which they say will help combat global warming by absorbing 5 per cent of the atmosphere's carbon dioxide. The suggestion, from scientists at São Paulo University, has the support of science and technology secretary José Goldemberg, who will try to sell the idea internationally and obtain funding from other countries towards the expected £12 billion cost. Professor Aziz Ab-Saber, one of the architects of the project, says Brazil "is one of the few countries in the world which possesses enough physical space to develop a large-scale reforestation programme without prejudice to other activities".

Platelet prediction

DOCTORS may be better able to predict when someone is at risk of having a second heart attack by using a test that measures the speed with which platelets in the blood clump together. A team led by Dr Mieke Trip, of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam, studied 149 heart attack survivors and examined the speed with which platelets, important for helping blood to clot, clumped in a test tube. The team reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that patients whose platelets clumped within 10 minutes were 5½ times more likely to die within the next five years than patients whose platelets took longer to clump. MATTHEW MAY

Inside a computer's mind

IN A hall at the Computer Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, an Anglo-American team of designers, special effects experts and video-graphic animators are putting the final touches to an ambitious educational exhibition of technology.

The display, to be officially unveiled in two weeks, is the world's first walk-through computer — a massive, two-storey working model of a desk-top model blown up 50 times and complete with pulsing lights simulating the flow of data and a giant spinning disc.

The exhibit, which cost £800,000, is the inspiration of Dr Oliver Strimpel, the Boston museum's executive director and former curator for mathematics and computing at London's Science Museum.

The designer was Richard Fowler, the head of Britain's National Museum of Photog-

raphy, Film and Television and former senior designer at the Science Museum, where he once produced several highly acclaimed exhibitions, including a full-scale model of a nuclear reactor.

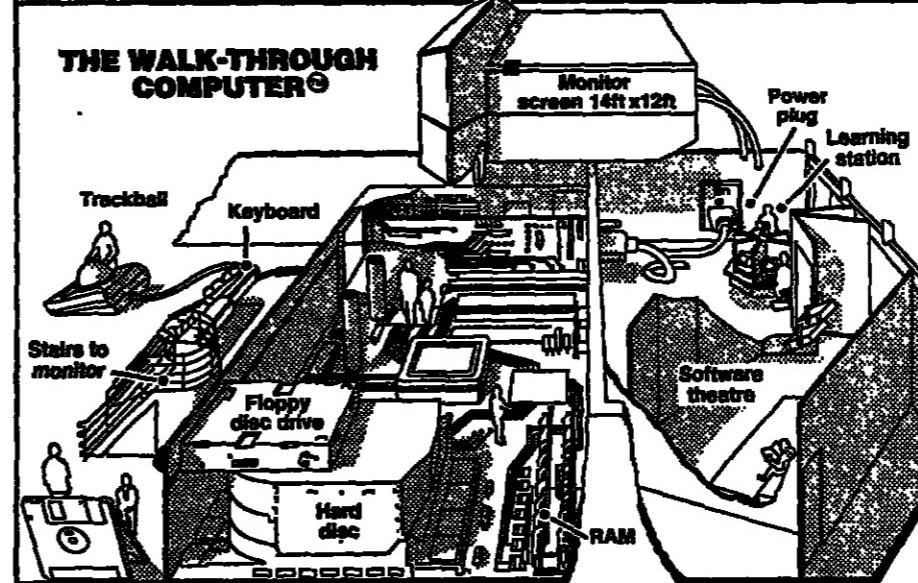
Through combining advanced hardware, software and special effects, the walk-through machine is able to demonstrate how computers process information from the flow of electrons in transistors through the algorithms of a program.

Dr Strimpel, who joined the Boston museum in 1984, believes a giant walk-through exhibit is the most effective method of educating the public to the mysteries of the computer by answering key questions, including how a computer works, how to communicate with a computer, how information is stored, the machine's inner workings and the roles of the

various components. To demonstrate a typical use, the exhibit runs a software program, called World Traveller, that allows visitors to operate the computer to tour the globe.

On arrival in the hall the first sight is of the exhibit's 108 sq ft monitor, 25-ft keyboard and six-foot-high floppy disc. When a 40-inch trackball pointed at two cities, the computer, with design equipment and building backed by companies including Digital Equipment, Apple, AT&T and Intel, begins calculating the shortest land route between the two cities. By stepping inside, people can see how the computer processes the data for the program while on the monitor slides are shown of sights along the way.

Designers have installed wall-to-floor video boards showing digital bits changed



into analogue pictures while view ports allow visitors to peer into the micro-processor, random access memory chips and key parts.

A theatre has been included, complete with computer-gen-

erated animation by New York cartoonist Dean Winkler and a specially commissioned video by John Palfreman, of the BBC's science programme Horizon, who is in the US making a six-part series on the history of the computer. In many ways, the Boston exhibit highlights how the computer is becoming a feature of mankind's cultural heritage and landscape.

NICK NUTTALL

Man on Mars?

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No Agencies.

Continued on next page

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Armchair cinema

SOUND quality in the cinema has improved markedly during the past few years, but with films increasingly being watched on television, film soundtracks frequently suffer.

Much of the problem comes from televisions equipped with only one small speaker. But manufacturers believe the quest for better sound quality will become more important as consumers continue to link their televisions to stereo systems.

Now film-maker George Lucas is to introduce a home version of a system his company Lucasfilm developed for the cinema seven years ago. The company says it vastly improves the sound quality from video cassettes.

Lucasfilm and three audio equipment manufacturers have designed systems to reproduce dialogue clearly, regardless of what else is happening on the sound-track.

Initially, a complete system is expected to cost about £5,000. Other manufacturers are producing cheaper versions of home audio-video systems which they believe will answer a desire from consumers wanting to try to recreate a mini-cinema in the home.

So far more than 40 manufacturers are licensed by Dolby to produce equipment that decodes the Dolby Surround that puts four channels of sound on to film's audio-track.

In 1983, Lucasfilm introduced the THX Sound Systems now used in more than 500 of Europe and America's largest cinemas to try to improve the reproduction of the Dolby recorded sound-tracks.

THX typically uses left, right and centre speakers, as well as a special one just for deep bass behind the cinema screen and up to 22 smaller speakers around the cinema to provide ambient sound.

The development of the system was said to have been fuelled by Lucas's disappointment with the way the sound-track from *Star Wars* — which included many special sound effects as well as visual ones — ended up in many cinemas.

The home system, introduced last week at the Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago, imitates the cinema version with four speakers in front of the listener, including a subwoofer, but uses only two surround speakers.

The system uses a decoder that follows the Dolby process, adds a balance to prevent recordings sounding too bright when played in a small room and uses other acoustic tricks to create the illusion of all-round sound.

MATTHEW MAY

How satellite technology is enabling colleges to link-up and share knowledge. Leslie Tilley reports

The concept of a European-wide electronic classroom came a step nearer last month when the University of London began transmitting a live course via satellite to students in Nice.

Educational establishments are using electronic mail, video-conferencing and satellite links in an attempt to make some learning and teaching independent of distance.

The universities of London, Wales and Scotland, in Scotland, are in the forefront of moves to exploit video telecommunications for teaching and to provide face-to-face links with companies and research centres around the world.

The University of London installed a video-transmission system in 1987 to link its separate colleges across London but has now taken the concept to teach students abroad.

Linked to King's College in London via the European Space Agency's (ESA) Olympus satellite, students in Nice can watch and phone into lectures to ask questions while the course is broadcast.

Students in Wales and Scotland will be linked up later in the year and discussions have been held with universities in Hungary and with the Czechoslovak government, says Graham West, the administrative secretary of the London Interactive Video for Education Network (Live-Net) Olympus co-ordination unit.

For the first two years, ESA will provide free time on the Olympus satellite for educational purposes and some European Commission hi-tech programmes are exploring training via satellite.

Colleges within range of the Olympus satellite — most of Europe — only need a receiving dish to see satellite transmissions but they have to collate with the training provider to receive other material. More locally, the technology is being used to enable remotely located universities and colleges to act as a single entity through a video link.

London, Wales and Scotland all have similar problems in that it can take a considerable time for students and lecturers to travel from one location to another. The snowy mountains of Wales or Scotland can just as easily force someone to cancel a lecture as can a traffic jam in London.

Live-Net, based on fibre optics, is a joint venture between London University and British Telecom with the aim of linking the university's six colleges in London, and one near Windsor where the satellite courses are transmitted to Europe.

The University of Wales has begun testing a video-conferencing system, due to open officially

Getting tuned in for a university of Europe



New vision: students at King's College watch a lecture by Alison Brown, lecturer in history, being transmitted from University College, London

Saltire are proposing to install a £2 million Live-Net-type system, while some polytechnics in England are considering similar ventures.

"The idea is that each separate university can call on resources at other universities which they previously could not do," says Bruce Royan, the director of information services at the University of Stirling.

"It is similar to Live-Net. The main difference is that the University of London is a single federal organization while we plan to link four independent universities that wish to collaborate. Students at any of the universities will be able to take any course they want and be taught from another campus."

The University of Wales has begun testing a video-conferencing system, due to open officially

later this year, to link its five colleges. A fibre optic network was not cost effective for Wales with its vast distances between each campus, so the university opted for a BT video-conferencing system which allows two-way live visual links from specially constructed video lecture rooms.

The network — costing £1.5 million — will link colleges at Cardiff, Bangor, Lampeter, Swansea and Aberystwyth.

Professor John O'Reilly, the university's director of the video-network project, says: "Distance learning is one of the applications of the network. Researchers in different locations can be used to back-up lectures and the system is interactive so that questions can be asked and answered remotely. We also see it as a way of increasing links with industry in

particular and research laboratories in the United States."

But video technology is still expensive and there are cheaper ways of introducing distance learning technology. Cable broadcasters are looking to transmit courses to subscribers so students at home, or in the office, can phone in with questions during the session.

Other organizations are adopting computer conferencing, or basic electronic mail, to link students across Europe during lectures. For example, the Centre for Electronic Communications and Open Support in Education has set up the European Business and Languages Learning Network with the financial backing of the Training Agency. Students in UK, Germany and France can learn foreign languages, and later busi-

ness subjects, in cross-cultural groups. The system is multilingual and the first host computers are now active in London and Paris with a centre planned for Germany next year.

The University of London's Birbeck College uses computer conferencing for students taking part-time MSc degrees from home or the office using a personal computer. The first intake using computer conferencing, or network learning as they term it, will graduate this year.

The college says the technology enables large numbers of UK students to "study the same material and learn from each other's experience and understanding, avoiding many of the problems of learning in isolation encountered in other distance and open-learning courses".

A sweet deal for slimmers

THE American firm Nutrasweet is attempting to do what few packaged goods companies have ever done: introduce a consumer product so successful that it becomes ubiquitous.

Nutrasweet already holds that distinction. Its sugar substitute, of the same name, introduced in 1983, is used as an artificial sweetener in 161 soft drinks and in 3,000 other products. Now the company is trying for a repeat performance with Simplesse, a fat substitute approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration in February.

To achieve the same results, Nutrasweet will have to convince scores of customers — from bakery companies to fast-food chains — to use the fat substitute. Meanwhile, it will have to win over millions of consumers for Simplesse's first product, an ice cream-like dessert called Simple Pleasures to be introduced in the US this summer.

Competition in the fake-fat market is also likely to be brisk. Huge consumer products companies are working on their own versions. In addition, the company has set a goal of becoming the world's first diet-ingredients company producing a variety of healthy, low-calorie substances.

Nutrasweet scientists are already working on a salt substitute that will not raise blood pressure because it will contain no sodium and that will taste better than potassium chloride, the current salt substitute, which has a bitter aftertaste.

The generic name for Nutrasweet is asparame, a combination of two naturally occurring proteins that is 180 times sweeter than sugar but has a fraction of the calories — two tenths of a calorie per gram compared with four calories in an amount of sugar with the equivalent sweetening power. The technical name for Simplesse is microparticulated protein, a substance that has less than half the calories of animal fat and no cholesterol.

To make it, egg white and a protein found in whey, the watery constituent of milk, are simultaneously whipped and cooked into a ball-bearing-like consistency that fools the tongue into perceiving the feel of animal fat.

Since both the sugar and fat substitutes have been patented, Nutrasweet has a legal monopoly. However, when the patents expire — in December 1992 for Nutrasweet and 2005 for Simplesse — any competitor may then produce the substance and compete with the company.

ANTHONY RAMIREZ

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**SPORT FOR
THE DISABLED**
**Golf's new devotees
are reliant on buggies**

By JANE WYATT

THE first national championships of a new sport for people with disabilities will be held at Weston-on-the-Green, Oxford, on Sunday. The British Sports Association for the Disabled's Trevor Sumner golf tournament is the outcome of an idea born 18 months ago.

Handigolf, which is the name of the sport, is the brainchild of Andy Greatley, now chairman of the Handigolf Foundation, and other golf enthusiasts, including Ian Hayden, a Paralympic medal winner.

They believed that all people with disabilities should have the opportunity to enjoy the special spirit of golf. For a long time the game had been restricted to amputees and those with visual handicaps, because of the resistance from clubs to wheelchair users.

To solve this problem the foundation advocated the use of electric buggies which have wider wheels and which, they claim, do not damage greens. In 18 months they have attracted around 100 regular players to the game. But future growth will be determined by the cost of the buggies, at around £1,700 each, and by the number of clubs prepared to accept them.

At the moment, handigolfers can play at half a dozen pitch and putt courses around the country. The foundation hires the facilities for a day and organises its own events, via transports that buggies to the location. This means that the game is limited to those who live near a participating course or who are able to travel long distances.

The eventual aim is for as many courses as possible to have their own buggies, so that prospective golfers can simply phone ahead and book them. Hayden, as the foundation's technical officer, sees local golf clubs as being prime movers in raising funds for their own buggies. Once the capital investment has been made the machines cost very little to recharge.

Hayden is particularly enthusiastic about the game because able-bodied and disabled golfers can play together, working from the same slightly modified handicapping system, and without the need for any complicating classification.

On Sunday, for example, the 15 teams will consist of two able-bodied golfers playing alongside a golfer with a disability. Apart from the fact that the handigolfers are treated there is only one other difference from regular golf and that is that the clubs are longer.

From ALAN LORIMER
NELSON, NEW ZEALAND
**Nelson Bays/Marlboro 6
Scotland XV 23**

THE adage that "no New Zealand team is easy to beat" was again verified yesterday at Nelson, where Scotland were given a testing match against the combined Nelson Bays/Marlboro team.

The Scotland captain, Alex Brewster, said: "We knew that they had a 'heavy pack' and, by implication, the loose-head prop meant that the Scottish forwards had had to work hard to overcome the local resistance.

Brewster's observation that "a dry day would have helped the Scottish side" was undoubtedly true. The heavy overnight rain had left the pitch at Trafalgar Park with a treacherously greasy surface, which the intermittent showers only made worse.

In these circumstances, Scotland, who fielded their reserve team save for Cronin and Burnell, derived less advantage from their mobile pack and faster back division, but nevertheless ought to have used their possession more gainfully.

One other worrying aspect for Scotland was the number of penalties that they conceded, almost four times as many as their opponents. Ian McGeechan, while concerned

Stark's first penalty for the

No New Zealand surprises

IAN McGEECHAN, the Scotland coach, yesterday gave his reaction to the All Blacks' selection for the first international (Alan Lorimer writes). "There are no particular surprises. There is a lot of experience in the team," he said. "Of the new caps, I was particularly impressed by Walter Little on the All Blacks' tour of Wales and Ireland."

Scotland are expected to name their side next Tuesday, after their match against Southland in Invercargill, but it is unlikely to differ from the team which won the five nations' championship.

Much, of course, will depend on the injury situation, which yesterday looked less gloomy than on Monday.

Sean Lineen, who will almost certainly oppose Little, was confined to light training yesterday, but will attempt a more thorough session today. The Boroughmuir centre, who is suffering from a groin strain, has allowed them a relaxing few

days away from the media, which surrounded them intensely in Wellington. Away from rugby, golf has proved a popular recreation for the Scots.

However, the Scots' captain, Finlay Calder, did admit he was disappointed that the All Blacks had lost four of their number — John Gallagher, John Schuster, Matthew Ridge and Frank Botica — to rugby league.

"Frankly, I'm disappointed," Calder said. "I feel there might have been a chink of complacency, something for us to exploit. With those four gone, we can forget it."

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Why the original plans for the 1991 World Student Games in Yorkshire were too ambitious

Still a way out for Sheffield

By DON ANTHONY

THE continuing problems of Sheffield Universiade ham and embarrass us.

The proposed solutions to the financial pressures threatening the staging of the World Student Games in Sheffield next summer are boringly and predictably convergent. Task forces from the British Olympic Association, the Sports Council, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation will land on the beaches and save the day. A Marshall Plan will be devised. British sport will have egg on its face – but not all down its suit. We can then return to making Olympic bids without student sideshows baring the soul of British sport.

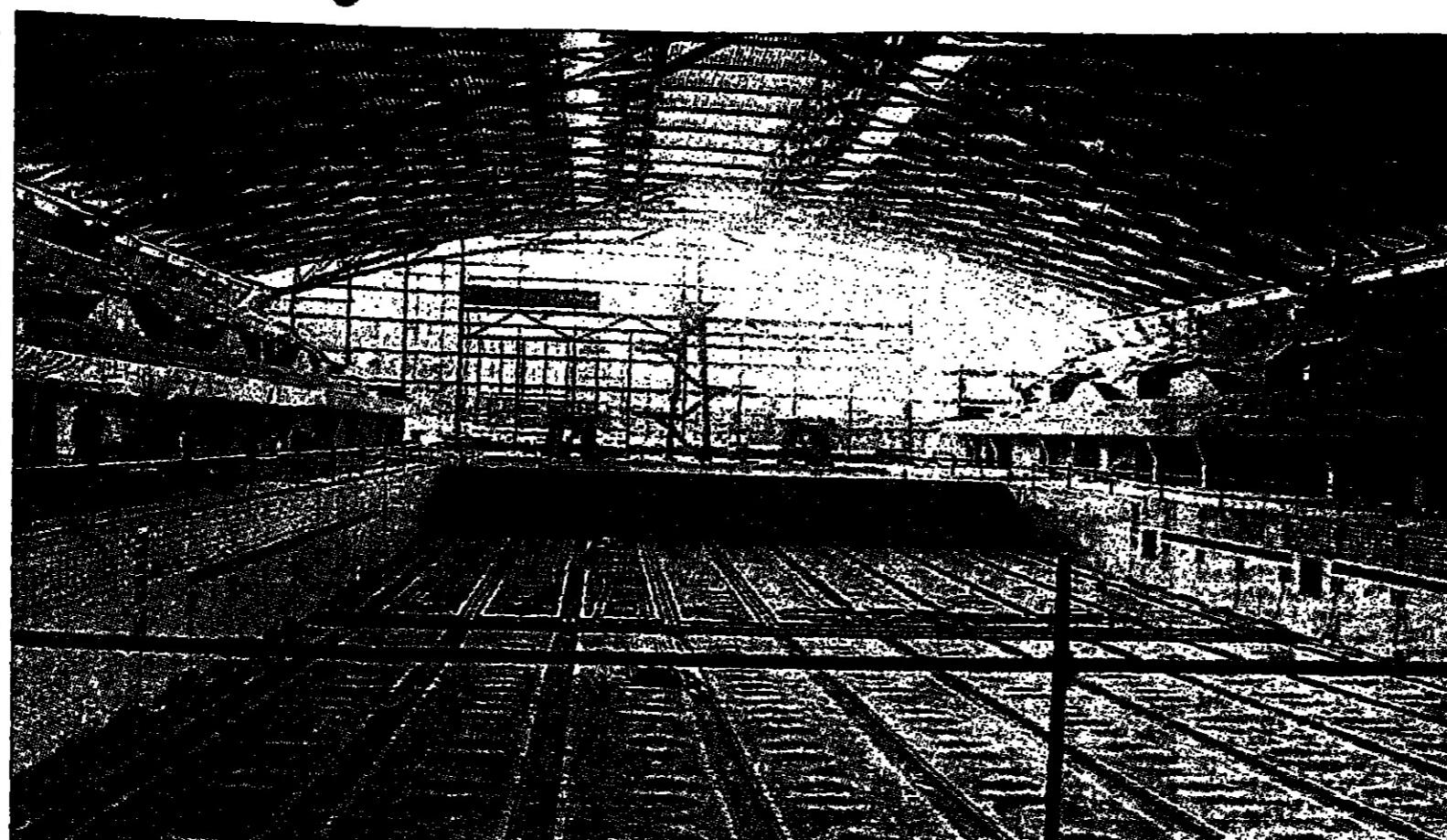
In many ways, the current problems are necessary and welcome. The idea was never truly thought through. The fact that Brazil had to abandon the last Universiade should have stimulated our powers of analysis. But it didn't.

It was decided to organise a mini-Olympics in the confident expectation that the television moguls would fall over themselves to sign contracts, yet television has never shown much interest in the World Student Games.

The Sheffield Games were "privatised". The facts are that privatisation of a major world sports event just does not work – or rather it has never truly been tried. The Los Angeles model is trotted out to boost the morale of the privatisers. Los Angeles is seen through Coca-Cola-tinted glasses blurred by a McDonalds smokescreen. The 1984 Olympic Games, however, were merely topped-up by commercial sponsors.

The operation was based on massive community investment in sport and recreation – in schools, in communities, in universities. State universities, in particular, furnished the elite with four-year sports scholarships. Most of the facilities were city or university-owned. The great United States money-spinning sports – basketball and American football – are usually university-based with the profits ploughed back into physical education departments.

Since the discovery of oil in California, farsighted laws have ensured that a percentage



Taking the plunge: The Ponds Forge swimming complex, one of the expensive facilities being built for the troubled Sheffield Universiade

of the profits should be put back into recreational amenities for the populace – not too distant from the coastline. Hence the abundance of golf courses, marinas, and the like.

On top of this arrive the commercial boys – generous and patriotic. For example, 3M taking on board all the administrative costs of the three United States Olympic Committee (USOC) training centres at Colorado Springs, Lake Placid and San Diego. The city of Colorado Springs presents the USOC a complete sports-excellence complex for \$1 a year. The city of San Diego endeavours to assure all members of US elite squads based there a job or a scholarship. A heady brew. But a far cry from Sheffield 1991 Ltd.

Furthermore, the world does not seem happy about a mini-Olympics for students. It seems to tolerate, indeed welcomes, one great bonanza every four years. The greatest show on earth. But a second one, for a group already seen by many as pampered and

privileged? Why not also for the rest of the world's specialised groups – bank clerks, bricklayers, the unemployed?

Some specialised groups do have their global sports meetings – the military, for example – but here training, equipment, and transportation are all paid for by governments! Medical doctors have their own sports championships – but these are low key and self-financed, although a concurrent seminar would probably make the whole event tax-allowable. There are other down-market, modest, events of this kind.

The Yugoslavs organised the 1987 World Student Games and they used a mix of Balkan public and private enterprise. They also have an apt proverb – "if you are in the soup, at least enjoy the taste of it." Sheffield and Britain are in the soup.

So let us look at the basic ingredients. Student sport in Britain became a model for the world. It was largely self-

organized, helped along by financial subsidies from the university and/or state. In working time a large body of intellectuals enjoyed three or four, or more, years of study in which active sport was part of the daily lifestyle. Transport, accommodation, clothing, coaching, all provided at knock-down prices. Young people facilitated to experience organisation, like captaincy, secretarialship, chairmanship and all other such tasks which underpin sport.

It provided a nice balance to the workbooks; it provided practice for the administrative skills used later in business, the civil service and diplomacy. And, let us be fair, many of those who enjoyed the experience continued to serve the voluntary sports movement for a lifetime, almost as a moral duty. Voluntary public service through the medium of sport. Almost all leading sports administrators in this country – and perhaps in the world – came through this route; even those who are now paid as part of a growing professional cadre of sports administrators.

We can still make a good soup from these raw materials. But we can't make a Christmas cake. The soup we can make would focus on self-organisation (warts and all). It would focus on what students could do for the rest of the community in sport – now and later. It would focus on the creation of an organisational model which might be exportable, especially to the Third World, and thus help to make world student sports activities an ongoing and viable experience for students everywhere.

We still have a year to sort things out. Get back to basics. House the students in local homes and tents if need be. Get the students doing their own thing in regard to organisation. Devise a system which works for Sheffield and also for Dar es Salaam. Make some really exciting new shapes from the old bricks.

An exercise conducted in this spirit could excite sponsors; it should embarrass government into action. It would enable the event to take place. And it would do the world a favour.

Dr Don Anthony is a University lecturer and president of the English Volleyball Association.

declining sports profile at the club level would not go down well with the British public. Or the thinking student audience.

I do not write in spirit of sour grapes. I was a student. I spend much of my life in academia. I enjoy and appreciate the advantages, especially in sport. I also want everyone else to share them.

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FIXTURES

CRICKET

First Cornhill Test
11.0, 30 overs minimum

TRENT BRIDGE: England v New Zealand

British Assurance championship
11.0, 110 overs minimum

MILDENHALL: Essex v Gloucestershire

BASINGSTOKE: Hampshire v

Somerset

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Kent v

Yorkshire

LORD'S: Middlesex v Warwickshire

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Leicestershire

THE OVAL: Surrey v Derbyshire

Other match

11.30-5.30

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Nottinghamshire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: March v Cambridgeshire v Shropshire

RAPID CRICKETLINE SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Basingstoke v Derbyshire

Midlands: Leicestershire v Lancashire; Quidley School v Northamptonshire; Gloucester v Worcestershire; Shropshire v Herefordshire; Warwickshire v Essex; Herefordshire; Yorks v Glamorgan

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Miss Race, Penrith to Morecambe. National championship, Fleetwood. Assistants Matchplay (Dartmoor).

SNOKER: Asian Open qualifying round (Stockport).

SPEEDWAY: National League: Ipswich v Peterborough; Knockout Cup: Second round, second leg: Middlesbrough v Edinburgh

FOOTBALL: European: BSB 4.30pm.

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL: Euro 12.30-1.30pm (London)

BASEBALL: SuperSport 9.15am. Highlights of Major League from the United States

SOCCER: SuperSport 12.30pm. Professional from the United States; Europe 9.15pm. World championship highlights.

CRICKET: BSB 1.15pm-1pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm-7.30pm (London); Coverage of the First County Test: First day from Trent Bridge; BSB 8.10pm; First Continental Test.

EQUESTRIANISM: SuperSport 7.30am and 11pm-1am; Show jumping, Derby, Summer Games event and World Cup draw-ups.

FOOTBALL: Euro 8.10pm; Story of the 1990 World Cup.

FOOTBALL: Euro 8.30-8am, 7.30 and 10-11.30pm; World Cup preview: SuperSport 4.30pm; World Cup international semi-finals profile.

GOLF: SuperSport 3.30pm; Highlights of the Kemper Open Potomac tournament from the United States.

MOBIL MOTOR SPORT NEWS: Eurosport 6.30pm.

MOTORCYCLING: BSB 2.30-4.45, 6.30-7pm and 11pm-11.30pm; Isle of Man TT racing: Highlights from previous years, "On Two Wheels".

MOTOR SPORT: Eurosport 8.1am-9.15am; Highlights of the MASCAR Weston Cup, Eurosport 8.00-9.30pm, 7.30pm "Motor World".

POKERSPORTS INTERNATIONAL: SuperSport 11am-midday.

RACING: BSB 1.30-2 and 10-10.30pm; Racing news.

SPORTSCORE: BSB 1.25, 6.0, 7.30, 10.30pm and midnight.

SPORTS PREVIEW: BSB 3-4pm.

TELEVISION: Eurosport 1.15pm-6pm and 10.30pm-12.30am; Live coverage of the French championships from Paris.

THAI BOXING: SuperSport 2-3pm.

UPDATE: SuperSport 6pm.

WORLD OF SPORT: SuperSport 5pm.

Problems of England followers

From Mr N. J. Phillips and others

told "that a large number of tickets allocated to the FA are in category 1 (E55) and that members require tickets at this price for more chance of being successful?" A second category choice had to be made and open cheques forwarded. This we did on April 23.

At the beginning of May, the FA had not yet decided on the basis of allocation. They had problems as the majority of people had chosen seats at £5 and £17, of which they have very few. Apparently FAFA allocated tickets directly to approved travel agents and then to the national associations, who receive 7% per cent of each game they are involved in.

The FA received the tickets on May 23, of which approximately three-quarters were at £5, and the remaining less than 10 days before we were due to sail.

The alternatives were to sign up for an official tour at £800-£900 plus tickets or to arrange a self-organised trip. The latter was our choice.

As soon as the draw was made in December we booked and paid deposits for accommodation and ferry crossings for both the Channel and Ligurian Sea. By January we were fully organised and members began to pay in their money. All we needed were travel agents to apply for them.

We contacted the FA, then the England Travel Club. We filled out the forms, provided photos and paid our money. At least twice we were able to apply for them.

In other words, by the Government reducing taxation, the pools companies are made free to divert punters' money from the Treasury to the football industry to help cover the cost of improvements imposed on them by Government.

What a funny world it is.

Although the greyhound racing industry has an excellent safety record and has never experienced anything remotely resembling a disaster, it is to be caught up in enormous costs of stadium improvements arising directly out of football (which has seen many more dramatic changes than football) that is baited out to the use of the diversion of £100 million of supporters' cash. Greyhound racing is left to find its own way out of the mess that football – and only football – has got it into, and is still denied by Government any help from a betting levy.

Horse racing for many years,

and now football, enjoys this benefit. Greyhound racing is still to receive nothing, but must foot this enormous new bill imposed upon it by football's success not as a consequence of lives lost at greyhound racing (there have been none), but directly because of lives lost at football.

Football has been found guilty but is to be let off with a subsidised caution. Greyhound racing is innocent but is to be heavily fined, just for being in the vicinity.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. JAMES,

Secretary, NCRC

Racecourse Promoters Ltd,

Wimbledon Stadium,

Plough Lane, SW12

hardly a bad pass. To give England their due, they did a superlative job.

4. The burden of expectation

heaped on the national side is true not only in football but equally in cricket and rugby. It is to be said that neither

Greyhound racing blow

From the Secretary of NGRC

Sir, May 24 the Chancellor told the House of Commons that football pools betting duty, due to be cut from 42.5 per cent to 40 per cent on May 28, would be increased to 45 per cent to footfall clubs during the next five years only possibly because of an agreement reached with the Football League, Football Trust and pools companies.

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The progressive changes that

have marked the evolution of this animal over the past 55 million years have seen a change from a lamb-sized chihuahua to the considerably larger modern horse.

Such evolutionary patterns

result from numerous

On humans and racehorses

From Mr John A. Murphy

Sir, read with interest Sebastian Coe's article on the training of humans and racehorses (June 4).

It seems to me that runners' times have improved for the following reasons:

1. Running surfaces are much faster.

2. Better nutrition.

3. Coaching now received by runners.

4. Harder training. The runner knows the world mile record has been bettered by 20 seconds since 1936.

5. More of the world's increasing population are taking to the sport.

6. Better medical facilities.

The horse on the other hand has not benefited little of the runner's benefits. Interbreeding may be detrimental to the improving speed and stamina. The racehorse owner will rest the horse in the knowledge that the horse will always be faster than the man, especially in my case, as a 59-year-old, the best I could manage in training for a furlong this morning was 34.29 seconds. It is a good job they don't have selling plate races for humans.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A. MURPHY,

18 Chancery Road,

Harrow,

Middlesex.</p

BADMINTON

Scotland capture Baddeley from the England camp

By RICHARD EATON

STEVE Baddeley, England's most successful men's single player since the war, is retiring immediately to take up the post of national director of coaching and development in Scotland. This is a coup for the Scots and a double blow for the English, who are simultaneously losing a leading player and a man they had been considering appointing as national team manager in the forthcoming weeks.

Baddeley became European champion only six weeks ago, achieved the record number of England caps during the tournament and is only 29. But reaching those career pinnacles has helped to persuade this astute, articulate and respected man that he can only go downwards from here and this is a good time to get out.

"Somehow winning the Europeans seemed to crystallise everything," Baddeley said. "It was tempting to go on to the Olympics and I shall miss competing. But I feel it best to stop at the top. And I shall be too busy to be looking back and regretting. This will be a most challenging job for me to do and I'm looking forward to it."

His retirement had been half-

expected. His employment in Scotland had not. The appointment is a tribute to the negotiating skills of Anne Smilie, who has just been promoted to chief executive, and also to the job's potential. It may further reflect upon England's problems in financing their team manager's job and their difficulties in making an immediate appointment.

Baddeley will now cut his executive and administrative teeth in a role that has two fascinating aspects — the improvement of a national squad to a standard where it can start to compete with the best in Europe, and the further development of the grass-root level of a game that is already popular in Scotland.

Both of these should be helped by the staging of the next European championships in Scotland, at Glasgow in 1992. A sponsorship from Pilkingtons is said to be one of the biggest in the history of the game. By contrast England will now have to plug a gap in the team for next year's world championships in Copenhagen, as well as look further afield for a quality manager for the ailing national side.

ICE SKATING

Changes poised to spark revolution

By MICHAEL COLEMAN

TWO remarkable decisions taken at the recent congress of the International Skating Union in Christchurch, New Zealand, seem certain to transform the sport. Put simply, skaters in training for amateur competition can, from now on and provided their national associations approve, teach for money and also sign contracts to perform with ice shows.

This ability to earn money while preparing for national and international events should attract more skaters into competition and, more important, retain them in the sport longer. For decades, figure skating has been the only sport which in the same breath heralded its new champions and bade them adieu. The acquisition of a world or Olympic title meant immediate departure into ice extravaganzas, in part to recoup money lavished on training but also to cash in while the title was still "hot".

Robin Cousins is an example of a competitor who was forced to quit amateur competition while he was at his peak. His training bills obliged him to do so.

Others — and the splendid Swiss, Denise Biellmann, was a good example — ended their competitive lives abruptly by joining ice shows when their talents had by no means been fully developed.

Spared this scramble into the paid ranks were the state-backed Soviet skaters and others from Eastern European countries, who were able to stay in competition and mature, both to their and the sport's benefit. Katarina Witt and the all-conquering pair, Irina Rodnina and Aleksandr Zaitsev, are examples of skaters who had the freedom to take their talent to the limit.

The Christchurch congress has courageously done much to stem this hemorrhage from the amateur (ie. competitive) ranks. With figures now scrapped, dance rules relaxed and competi-

tors maturer, the scope for creative skating will also be greatly enhanced.

Provided that training is not disrupted, there is a lot to be said for skaters who are in competition teaching. Certainly the public would find it attractive, even if initially the established professional teachers might object. But as Courtney Jones, president of the National Skating Association (NSA), pointed out: "So many new ice rinks are opening that there will inevitably be a shortage of instructors."

In the case of active competitors, full contracts with ice shows would obviously not be approved, though guest appearances and short periods with smaller shows, such as, in this country, at Blackpool, Alton Towers or Bournemouth, would not encroach on training. What is novel is that top show-skaters could now return to, say, an Olympics.

Andrew Taylor, who, with his partner, Cheryl Peake, is a national pairs champion, said before leaving for five weeks' training in Leningrad: "Any other source of revenue is always welcome and would solve so many problems, especially for skaters in this country. Since most of us skaters full-time there would be ample opportunity for us to teach."

Both he and Steven Cousins, the national men's champion, were also enthusiastic over another ISU decision, to allow competitors to wear sponsors' logos, to a maximum of 15 square centimetres, on their clothing. Cousins, from Deside, is supported by Rappel Engineering, a local electrical switchgear manufacturer.

How these logos will clash with those for State Electric (the Electricity Council) is a sport's final mystery. But it will need to be worked out by the NSA when its council members meet later this month to evaluate the Christchurch revolution.

CRICKET

Friars win in final over

By GEORGE CHESTERTON

IN THE first-round matches in the Cricketer Cup, Old Alleynians were the only team to score more than 200. They set Old Whitings 258 to win and were successful by 92 runs.

With rain about, three matches were postponed and many were played over reduced time. The greatest excitement came at London where Charterhouse Friars needed eight runs from the last over, with nine wickets down, to achieve a target of 142.

Bovis, the Charterhouse No. 10, struck the second ball straight for six and two singles then proved sufficient.

Downdale Wunderers won by six wickets against Old Amplefordians, and Layton, returning after serious injury, made a match-winning 62 for

Stowes.

A steady innings of 53 by David Price at Malvern enabled the home side to beat Old Wykehamists while Hodgson and McMillan helped lift Quaside Rovers, the holders, from 36 for five to 189, which proved too many for Radley Rangers.

At Tattonham Corner, St Edward's Martyrs 175-4, Repton 175-5, Shrewsbury Saracens 158-5; Old Wimborne 117, Upperton 117-4; Old Bundellians 118; Old Wylemenians 120-5; Old Wimborne 120-5; Old Wimborne 120-5; Stowes 120-5; Old Cirencesters 184-6; Marlborough Blues 186-5; Old Alleynians 257-5; Old Whittington 154-5; Etton 154-5; Old Chelmsfordians 88; Harrow Weatherhead 124-5; Old Downham Waterlovers 194-4; Lancashire 141-5; Chelmsford 142-5; Postlethwaite Old Merchant Taylors 120-5; Downham Waterlovers 194-4; Lancashire 141-5; Chelmsford 142-5; Postlethwaite Old Merchant Taylors v Shadborne Fifties; Old Brightwells v Old Whittington; Peaseddon Hounds v Old Tonbridge.

CHESTERTON

PAT EDDERY (Quest For

Fame): He must be the easiest of my three Derby winners.

They went really fast early on

then slowed up. I could not

believe how well Quest For

Fame was going on the turn for home. He lengthened his stride and quickened up the final hill like only a good horse can. I was worried that the ground might get a little too soft, but luckily the rain held off long enough. This horse and Sangamore are just about the same, but I knew Quest For Fame would stay the better.

CASH ASMUSSEN (Blue

Stag): We had a good run up

the rails and made up five

lengths from Tattonham Cor-

ner to the two-furlong marker.

From there my horse was

hanging a bit and Pat's horse

was too good for me. It was a pity the winner was in the

background.

WILLIE CARSON (Elma-

sam): At Tattonham Corner, I

knew he was going to run a big

race but Pat was going too well

for me. I was hoping Pat

would stop, if Elmasam had

stayed, I would have been

second.

MICHAEL ROBERTS (Ka-

heel): We were always in a

nice position and had a lovely

run up under the fence. He ran

well but is still very

inexperienced.

BRUCE RAYMOND (Treble

Eight): He just did not stay

but is getting more manageable.

He can a similar race and was beaten about the same distance.

BRIAN ROUSE (Karinga Bay): He needs top of the

ground and a right-handed

track to show his best. I was

always struggling to hold my

position.

RAY COCHRANE (Duke Of

Paducah): He ran a good race

but needs faster ground and

wants 10 furlongs anyway.

RICHARD QUINN (Zo-

mox): Everything went

right. We were in the right

place at the right time, tracking

Quest For Fame, but he

probably didn't stay.

WALTER SWINBURN (Di-

ginition): We broke well from

the gates and then he seemed

to get very nervous when

among horses. He didn't enjoy

coming down the hill and cer-

tainly didn't give me the

same feel as when I rode him

at the weekend.

ALAN MUNRO (Sober Mind): I had a great first ride

but he never found his gears.

He was always struggling but

ran on strongly past a few

horses at the death.

JOHN WILLIAMS (Book-

case): No problems. I had a

nice run throughout the race,

but his inexperience found

him out and he got tired.

STEVE CAUTHEN (Reze-

n): I was in a perfect

position tracking Pat at the

top of the hill and travelling

well. I was thinking to myself this is great. But coming down Tattenham Hill, I could feel him go underneath me and him alone.

PAT SHANAHAN (Mr Bro-

oks): He didn't see out the

distance and never got home.

He ran like a miler.

CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

Beckhampton team celebrates second glorious Derby victory in space of four days

Quest For Fame scales heights

HUGH RUTLEDGE



Quest For Fame and Pat Eddery powering clear to an emphatic three-length Derby triumph at Epsom

Classic service from *The Times*

MANDARIN (Michael Phillips) and Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent, both napped 7-1 Derby winner Quest For Fame in *The Times* yesterday.

JACK WATERMAN, in his statistical preview, also pinpointed Quest For Fame and correctly forecast the 1-2-3 by nominating

from a long way back to take the runner-up spot, Asmussen said: "Normally I wouldn't have lain so far out of my ground. But I knew they were mainly a field of non-stayers. But as it was Quest For Fame had too much speed."

Similarly, Carson, after Elmasam had looked the only possible danger to the winner when racing in second place a furlong from home, said: "He was just too good for us. But we'd still have finished second if we'd stayed."

Both Zoman and Linamix had mainly through lack of stamina, finishing seventh

and ninth respectively. Razem, the 9-2 favourite, proved a bitter disappointment for Henry Cecil and Steve Cauthen. "He went well enough until halfway, but then just cut out," said the jockey.

Quest For Fame, of course, was compensating Abdulla for his bad luck with Dancing Brave in 1986. "I've forgotten about that now," he said. "But it's certainly a marvellous feeling to have bred two Derby winners within four days."

What an extraordinary tale of achievement has been Abdulla's progress in a comparatively short space of

time. "It all started when Humphrey Corrill introduced me to Jeremy Tree," he said. "I'll always be grateful to Jeremy for being my foundation trainer."

KNOWN FACT, winner of the 1980 2,000 Guineas on the disqualification of Nursey, and the following autumn, Rainbow Quest, Quest For Fame's sire, was awarded the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on the disqualification of Sagace.

Despite Dancing Brave's defeat in the 1986 Derby, the subsequent Arc winner had been acclaimed as the champion racehorse of the eighties.

WARNING and Ronsillon have been other high-class milers to have carried the pink green and white colours and now Quest For Fame and Sangamore appear to stand poised to reap an even richer harvest in the great middle-distance tests that lie ahead, such as the Irish Derby, the

yearly sales than the more profligate Maktoums.

TOGETHER with the Dubai brothers, Abdulla and the Aga Khan are the high rollers of European racing. Apart from Charlton, Guy Harwood, whose Digression finished eleventh yesterday, is the owner's other principal trainer in Britain.

Once again, the result of the Derby proved that speed is no substitute for the stamina inherited from middle-distance pedigrees. And Charlton, at Beckhampton, is carrying on the patient policy of Tree in giving these late maturing animals time to develop their full strength.

- RACING: 40-41
- CRICKET: 42
- GOLF: 43

SPORT

THURSDAY JUNE 7 1990

Hadlee declares himself fit to plague England

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

Nottingham teams

ENGLAND (from G A Gooch (captain), M A Atherton, A J Stewart, R A Smith, A J Lamb, N H Fairbrother, R C Russell, G E MacLaren, E E Hemmings).

NEW ZEALAND (from G Wright (captain), T J Franklin, A J Jones, D S Smith, J G Bracewell, R J Hadlee, M C Sneddon, D K Morrison, J J Crows, Umphress, H D Bird, J H Hampshire).

RICHARD Hadlee will go into an emotional Test match at his inherited home of Trent Bridge today pleading for a return of sanity and standards to the international cricket circuit.

Hadlee broke a bone in his right hand 13 days ago. Mere mortals do not attempt to play again so soon. Hadlee, however, is not only the most accomplished all-rounder in the game's history but a man of untainted pride and dignity, plainly affronted by his game's recent excursions into the gutter.

In confirming, yesterday, that he has pronounced himself fit to plague England again in this first Cornhill Test, the New Zealander was keen to volunteer some further thoughts.

"Whatever happens to me in this series is unimportant," he insisted. "I feel no pressures and I want none. My career is rounded off and I am content with what I have achieved. What is important is that we see some real cricket and forget all the controversies."

"It seems that in every series played now, there are far too many incidents involving umpires, time-wasting and bad behaviour. It has to be of some concern and I believe legislation must be that much tougher to get rid of it."

Inspired Backley looks for record

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, HELSINKI

THE legend of the tower at the Olympic Stadium here is a favourite story in Finnish athletics. It is said that when Matti Jarvinen set a world record for the javelin in the 1930s, as a monument to his achievement the tower was constructed to a height which equalled the distance of his throw.

Sadly, the story is false. "But 90 per cent of Finnish people believe it is true," Kari Wauhakonen, the meeting co-ordinator for tonight's international match between Finland and Britain, said. "It was never the intention of the architect to repeat exactly the world record, it was coincidence."

The legend is poignant, however, for it reflects the status of the event here: if there are any architects in the house of 30,000 this evening

they had better have access to a good many more bricks than were needed in Jarvinen's day.

Even before Jarvinen, javelin throwing was the national event of Finland. Steve Backley, the world's best, against Seppo Ratty, their own world champion, is big on the holder in the event.

"I would like to break the world record in Britain but Finland is the spiritual home javelin throwing and, if it has to be somewhere else, this is the place," Backley said.

His target is the as-yet unratified 89.10 metres thrown by Patrik Boden, of Sweden, in March. Backley threw 88.46 metres in Cardiff.

Defenders cause worries

From STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
CAGLIARI

THREE members of England's defence were unable to take a full part in training yesterday. Peter Shilton and Mark Wright were confined to the hotel's a few miles away from the tiny stadium in Pula and Paul Parker was involved only in the lighter aspects.

Bob Robson, the England manager, was careful not to fuel speculation that the injuries might be serious but, with the opening World Cup tie only five days away, they are a source of concern.

"I would like to break the world record in Britain but Finland is the spiritual home javelin throwing and, if it has to be somewhere else, this is the place," Backley said.

For Shilton to miss practice, even if his absence was merely a precautionary measure, is rare.

The 40-year-old fitness fanatic will equal Pat Jennings's world record of 119 caps on Monday, assuming that his knee is no longer sore. England's manager suggested that the bruising was caused by the goalkeeper continually diving on the sun-baked surface. Yesterday, ironically, it was softened by torrential rain.

Wright ricked his neck during the first half of the 10-2 victory over a Sardinian XI on Tuesday and had to sleep in a soft collar. Nothing can be done to hasten the recovery process and no one can determine precisely how long the injury may last.

Parker, who twisted an ankle last week, still cannot comfortably kick a ball.

At least Bryan Robson's fitness is no longer in any doubt. The heel he jarred during the FA Cup final replay is no longer tender. In view of the possible casualties amid the defensive unit, it was reassuring to hear that the captain and most effective guard in midfield is certain to be available for the match against the Republic of Ireland. The Netherlands and Egypt.

The resale of tickets ruins the segregation of supporters, a key feature of crowd control in stadiums; it also bypasses the screening of supporters against the blacklist of known troublemakers held by the Football Association and distributed to the Italian police.

"The whole system has

broken down and, quite honestly, who is surprised?" said

Steve Beauchampé, who is co-ordinating the centre for England supporters run by the Football Supporters' Association.

The FA yesterday opened its own office here next to the British Consulate to exchange vouchers for tickets and to sell any spare seats to approved supporters who are members of the FA Travel Club, although it cannot, of course, get access to tickets obtained by the Italians.

Seals cost between £55 and

£9 for England's three preliminary games in Cagliari and some are still available at the Banca Nazionale di Lavoro, the official ticket agency.

Beauchampé said: "It seems

tickets are being sold quite openly. Clearly people are getting them who are not members of the England Travel Club." He added that

they were in "good heart".

The three England supporters who were jailed on Monday after the first round of the competition, after being found guilty of stealing sheets and damaging a hotel bedroom, are sharing a cell in the local prison, with a washbasin, toilet and television. The vice-consul who visited them yesterday said that they were in "good heart".

WHILE most of the talk

concerning who will win the

Wimbledon title this year

centres around Becker, Cash,

Edberg and Lendl. Fred Perry,

no less, believes Pete Sampras,

a personable Californian, has

the potential to become a

future Wimbledon champion

(Barry Wood writes).

Seeded No 4 at the Direct

Line Insurance tournament at

Beckenham, Sampras, aged

18, was left kicking his heels

yesterday as rain denied him

practice in his build-up to the

championships.

Although losing in the open-

ing round last year to Todd

Woodbridge, Sampras has

since developed his serve and

volley, at the same time

improving his world ranking

from 90 to 20.

Seeded No 1, women's singles

Second round: H. Hand (GB) v A. Leandri (US), 6-3, 7-5.

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